



Increasing Rural Seniors' Skills for Influencing Policy - Transportation



Public Policy & Community Based Transportation Resource

2nd Edition

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Credits:

SIP-T Steering Committee

Carol Welch
Sandra Murphy
Mary Burey
Brigette Neuman
Rene Frigault
Irene Rose
Steven Coyle

Jean Robinson-Dexter
Project Management and Resource Development

A publication of:
Community Links
PO Box 29103
Halifax, NS
B3L 4T8
Tel: (902) 422-0914
Fax: (902) 422-9322
Email : admin@nscommunitylinks.ca

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Table of Contents

Introduction

Influencing Public Policy

Background: Increasing Seniors' Skills for Influencing Policy-Transportation.....	1
What is Public Policy?	3
What is Good Public Policy?	4
Barriers and Challenges to Policy Development	5
Building Personal Capacity to Develop Policy.....	6
Building Community Capacity to Develop Policy	7
Steps to Influence Public Policy	8
Tactics to Choose From	9
<i>Voices of Experience</i> -10 lessons learned by Seniors Impacting Policy.....	11
Selected Resources.....	12

Community Based Transportation

Community Based Transportation in Nova Scotia-Provincial Government Role	21
NS Seniors' Secretariat <i>Strategy for Positive Aging in Nova Scotia</i> Transportation Goal	24
Community Based Transportation Association	27
Community Based Transportation Services in Nova Scotia.....	29
Launching a Community Based Transportation Service- Tips for Being Prepared	54
Building a Strong Organization	55

Appendices

Appendix A: SIP-T Steering Committee.....	59
Appendix B: Nova Scotia Community Based Transportation Resources	61
Appendix C: Stand Alone Resources.....	64
Appendix D: Digby-Annapolis SIP-T Working Group Proposal for Federal Support for Community Based Transportation	67

Introduction

Nova Scotia has the oldest population in Atlantic Canada, and the third oldest in Canada. The number of seniors in Nova Scotia is estimated to be 132,600, or 13.9% of the population (2005). Seniors are the fastest growing segment of the population, with 8,100 Nova Scotians celebrating their 65th birthday in 2005.

Although the total population of Nova Scotia is expected to grow by only three percent (3%) between 2005 and 2026, the senior population will grow by four-fifths (+80%), when they will make up one-quarter of the population.

In meeting with seniors and organizations that provide services to seniors, Community Links finds that the issue of transportation is always raised. For many of our members, it is the number one issue that affects their ability to age in place. This is particularly true as more and more services such as health care and shopping are centralized in major service communities. It is therefore important to support and encourage the development of public policy and programs that provide resources for community based transportation.

Seniors organizations have a valuable role to play in the public policy arena. Whether it is providing input as new policies and strategies are being developed, such as *The Strategy for Positive Aging in Nova Scotia* (Seniors' Secretariat, December 13, 2005) or taking steps to influence legislation around the cost of automobile insurance, seniors can and should influence policies that affect them and their communities. It is for this reason that Community Links is committed to enabling seniors to engage in the public policy process.

This resource has been developed to provide information and tools for Nova Scotian seniors and people who work with them to learn more about community based transportation in the province and strategies and tools on how to influence public policy of municipal, provincial and federal governments to support these services. Community Links will continue to provide support and encouragement for rural seniors to be actively engaged in issues that will affect their quality of life.

Sandra Murphy
Executive Director
Community Links

Background

In 2002, Community Links received support from Health Canada Population Health Fund to develop a project called Increasing Rural Seniors Skills for Influencing Policy (SIP). SIP's purpose was to increase Community Links members' knowledge and skills in influencing the policies that affect their lives. Specifically, the goals of the project were to:

- develop an understanding of policy and its development;
- increase an understanding of the policy process;
- increase awareness of community organizations' role in policy development; and
- increase ability to take action in the community.

Community Links chose to focus on influencing public policy based on its on-going work and experience with seniors. This experience told us that:

- The rural voluntary sector has great potential to be involved in policy development.
- Many of Community Links' member organizations undervalue their expertise and skills and believe that they have no role in influencing public policy.
- For the most part, Community Links' member groups have not had opportunities to learn about the nature of policy, to make links between public policies and their health, or to appreciate the impact of public policy - for good or ill – on their lives, health and communities.
- Interest in this area is increasing among seniors.

The SIP project consisted of a workshop, a follow-up session (six months later) and the development of a resource, *Voices of Experience*, which highlighted the learnings of SIP participants.

In September 2004, Community Links received funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada Population Health Fund for Increasing Rural Seniors Skills for Influencing Policy – Transportation, a follow-up to the work begun through SIP with a focus on community-based transportation.

Project Objective: To build on the work of "Developing Rural Seniors Skills for Influencing Policy" by involving a group of seniors in developing a strategy of engagement around the issue of transportation for persons with mobility and access problems.

Project activities included:

- Recruit approximately 12 - 16 seniors, from 4 or 5 groups or organizations, who will commit to working together using the process developed by SIP around the public policy issue of *Transportation*.
- Hold information sessions and workshops around the transportation issue at the Community Links AGM.
- Conduct a day-long strategy development session for the working group in conjunction with the AGM.
- Support the capacity of the group as they work on this issue and in their own groups through mentoring, provision of meeting and travel costs, and resources.
- Compile and synthesize the experiences and insights of the working group members, and those they have engaged in the effort, into a resource that can be used by other groups.

The project has been lead by Community Links and a Steering Committee comprised of representatives from:

- Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations
- Nova Scotia Seniors' Secretariat
- NS Advisory Council on the Status of Women
- NS Centre on Aging (Mount St. Vincent University)
- Veterans Affairs Canada – Halifax District Office
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- NS Community Based Transportation Association

Three geographic areas of Nova Scotia; Southwest Nova Scotia, East Hants, and Richmond County were identified as areas at varying levels of engagement in community- based transportation. Groups in those areas were invited to participate in the project and identify and work on some aspect of public policy related to community-based transportation. This participation included identifying a number of seniors to participate in a day and half workshop on influencing policy, held in November 2004; staying connected with and sharing activities and progress with the Project Coordinator; and participating in a follow-up workshop held in June 2005.

This resource is based on the two components of the project and the learnings of project participants.

What is public policy?

Adapted from *Good Policy, Good Health*. Nova Scotia Fishnet, 2002.

Policies can be laws, rules, regulations, guidelines, principles or directions. They say what is to be done, how it is to be done and for whom it is to be done. The world is full of policies. Individual agencies make policies that guide the way they operate. Stores have return policies. Workplaces have policies about things like sick days. Schools have policies that describe the way they expect children to behave.

All levels of government make policies:

- The federal government makes policies about things like fisheries, trade and employment insurance.
- The provincial government makes policies about who can receive certain health services and where schools, hospitals and highways will be located. The provincial government also delegates its policy making authority to other agencies or organizations such as School Boards and District Health Authorities.
- Local governments make policies about where you can build houses, park cars or let dogs run loose.

The policies that governments make are called public policies. They have a huge impact on individuals and communities because public policy decides how resources are divided and how and where public money is spent. Ideally, public policies are developed with the cooperation of many people:

- Elected politicians who set the policy
- Bureaucrats who develop regulations to carry out the policy
- Managers and service providers who carry out the regulations
- People who are affected by the policy

If implemented well, policy can profoundly influence the way people live and the choices they make.

A policy is a plan of action agreed to by a group of people with the power to carry it out and enforce it.

Capacity Building: Linking Community Experience to Public Policy

What is Good Public Policy?

Adapted from *Taking Action Through Public Policy: A Focus on Health and Environment Issues*. Canada, 2002

There are a number of factors that may be considered during public policy development. In the end, these factors will be used to judge whether the result is good public policy. They are:

Public interest: What is in the best interest of society as a whole?

Effectiveness: How well does a policy achieve its stated goals?

Efficiency: How well are resources used to achieve goals and put a policy in place?

Consistency: What is the degree of alignment with the broader goals and strategies of the government and with constitutional, legislative and regulatory regimes?

Fairness and Inclusion: How does the policy increase inclusion of all members and sectors of society? This may link directly to consideration of the public interest. Does it create disadvantages for some and not others?

Reflection: What other values of society and/or the community, such as freedom, security, communality, choice, and privacy are reflected in the policy?

Sustainability: Is there a balanced and mutually supported relationship between environment, health, society, and the economy?

If a public policy has met the above criteria, it should be:

- Socially acceptable.** Citizens will feel that the policy reflects their values, such as fairness and equity, consistency, justice, and compassion.
- Politically viable.** The policy will have sufficient scope, support, and financial viability so that elected officials are comfortable with its implementation.
- Technically correct.** The policy will meet scientific and technical criteria that have been established to guide or support the decision.

While all of these factors are important to community groups wanting to influence public policy, two factors are of greatest importance:

- 1) The extent to which the final policy addresses the specific needs and concerns of the community; and*
- 2) The extent to which the community had meaningful opportunity to influence and participate in the policy development process.*

Barriers and Challenges to Policy Development

Adapted from: *Rural Communities Impacting Policy: Challenges and Barriers to Community Participation in Policy Development*. Steven Dukeshire and Jennifer Thurlow, 2002.

The following is a list of barriers and challenges to policy development.

Barriers and Challenges to Policy Development Faced by Communities
Understanding the policy making process
Lack of resources
Reliance on volunteers
Lack of access to information
Absence of rural representation in the decision making process
Relationships between rural communities and government
Time and policy timeline restrictions
Barriers and Challenges Faced by Government Policy Makers
Perceived resistance of communities as a partner in policy development
Jurisdictional issues
Attitudes of government toward rural communities
Structural barriers within government
Overcoming Challenges and Barriers to Rural Policy Development
Presenting a case to public policy makers
Government initiated programs
The creation of mechanisms to act as a voice for rural communities
Access to information
Horizontal initiatives *

*The horizontal approach to the public process calls for community members and organizations (and governments) to build their capacity to work as equal stakeholders and contributors to the process.

Building Personal Capacity to Develop Policy

Personal capacity is the ability to use personal resources to achieve goals. Personal capacity includes attitudes, skills and knowledge, including knowledge based in experience and interpersonal skills. Personal capacity is the power each individual has and can use in relationships within the community and within systems. Many people use their personal capacity to connect community organizations and government systems - these are called bridge people.

A person who has developed personal capacities for policy development may have:

- an understanding of how policy decisions are made
- the capacity to recognize one's own strengths and weaknesses, and to know and set one's own boundaries
- the communication skills of listening, understanding and assertiveness
- the ability to resolve conflicts with the intention of both achieving goals and improving relationships
- respect for the experience and diversity of others
- planning and evaluation skills for understanding issues and strategic interventions
- leadership skills to motivate others
- the ability to work collaboratively
- credibility within and knowledge of one's community.

What skills do you bring?

Building Community Capacity to Develop Policy

Community capacity is a community's ability to identify, mobilize and address social and health issues. A community's capacity is directly linked to its ability to act effectively to influence change, and to engage government officials and elected representatives in meaningful, collaborative policy dialogue. Community capacity building involves increasing the community's knowledge, skills and abilities in the following areas:

- the ability to identify and name the issue
- the ability to create a vision of how the issue should be addressed
- the ability to articulate that vision to others
- knowledge of government and non-government structures (such as hospitals) and systems and the role they play in the policy development process
- the ability to work collaboratively across sectors to identify opportunities for strategic intervention and ideal methods for intervention
- knowledge of best practices to address a particular issue
- the ability to generate and use various types of information to help identify needs, understand and communicate issues, and assess impacts of policy and interventions
- allies in other sectors who can assist communities in developing strategies to influence policy
- the ability to identify the most salient information and present it in the most useful format for policy makers
- the ability to use various approaches simultaneously to influence policy (for example: generating information through community-based research, preparing policy briefs, circulating petitions, and making presentations at government-initiated consultations).

What skills does your community (or organization) have?

Steps to Influence Public Policy

1. Pick an Issue

- Understand what's happening with the issue.
- Do your research.
- Decide on your goal.

2. Find Partners & Allies

- Consider who is interested in this issue.
- What resources and skills can we offer each other?

3. Plan Your Action

- Decide who to lobby.
- Determine your short term goals.
- Decide what strategies you'll use.

4. Implement Your Plan

- Carry out your plan.
- Keep track of the tasks to influence the policy.

5. Evaluate Your Action

- Consider where you started and where you are now- what were the successes, the challenges, what was the outcome?

These five steps provided the foundation of both the SIP and SIP-T workshops with Community Links member organizations.

Tactics to Choose From

Adapted from *The Community Tool Box* <http://ctb.ku.edu>

Advocacy action can range from very simple activities to complex strategies involving many partners.

Advocacy action includes:

- Providing encouragement and education by:
 - Giving personal compliments and offering public support
 - **Developing a proposal for change** - When you're advocating for change - whether that means addressing an issue with a community intervention, establishing a new policy, stopping something negative from happening, or changing the way the community thinks and acts, it's not enough to point out what's wrong or could be improved. You have an obligation, when it's possible, to present better alternatives. That's what a proposal for change is—your suggestions (or demands) for change, and for how that change can be brought about.
 - **Establishing formal communications and request participation** - Developing a structured, "official" connection with an organization or individual can be a valuable ally in your advocacy effort. This formal arrangement might be anything from an unspoken agreement that you'll take each other's calls, to regularly scheduled meetings between two organizations, to contact as needed between individuals. Once you have a connection, you have to know how to ask for participation effectively. You have to present the proposition in a way that shows how it will benefit the other party, and that communicates respect and the spirit of collaboration.
 - **Providing corrective feedback** - Corrective feedback is information provided to an individual or group about how her or its behaviour, actions, style, strategies, etc. are perceived by and affecting others. It is meant to lead to positive change, and, in the case of community advocacy, to more effective advocacy for public policy. To have any real power, corrective feedback must be delivered in such a way and by such a person that it will be attended to, rather than simply arousing defensiveness, denial, or anger. That means that the ideal provider of feedback is someone the recipient trusts and respects, and that the provider conveys the feedback as supportively and sensitively as possible. The feedback should be provided, to the extent possible, by those directly affected by the issue, or by advocates who have enough understanding of the issue to allow them to speak for those affected.

- **(Re)framing the debate** – framing an issue describes what the issue is, who is responsible, and what the possible solutions are. Successful framing puts your group in a favourable position to direct the discussion of the problem and improves the chances of a successful solution, in a way that is best both for your group and for the community. **Reframing** is the flip side of framing. It is a way of altering the presentation of an issue to counter opposing views. Sometimes the original frame in which the issue is described or explained may not be the best one for you or others who are concerned with the problem. In such cases, it may make sense to reframe the issue for your audience. This may also improve your chances of solving the problem.
- Writing advocacy letters to policy makers
- Participating in advocacy meetings and telephone calls with policy makers
- Submitting op-ed pieces and letters to the editor for the local, provincial or national newspapers
- Making public statements
- Speaking at conferences or events

Voices of Experience – 10 Lessons Learned by Seniors Impacting Policy

~ Excerpted from *Voices of Experience*, Community Links, 2003

- 1. Commit to your issue**
- 2. Knowledge is power**
- 3. Plan, prepare, strategize**
- 4. There's strength in numbers**
- 5. You CAN overcome apathy**
- 6. Meet with politicians whenever you can**
- 7. Working for policy change develops skills**
- 8. Participation builds confidence**
- 9. Meeting and learning from others makes life interesting**
- 10. Just do it!**

The above lessons are based on the learnings of the participants of SIP. Copies of the booklet *Voices of Experience* are available through Community Links.

Public Policy - Selected Resources

This section provides the reader with a variety of resources on advocacy and influencing public policy, some with a health promotion slant. As well, because it is important to be clear what level of government one may need to try to influence, listings of the federal, provincial and municipal government contacts are included.

The Community Tool Box

http://ctb.ku.edu/tools/en/tools_toc.htm

The Community Tool Box provides over 6,000 pages of practical skill building information on over 250 different topics of interest to promote community health and development by connecting people, ideas, and resources. Chapter 4 of the Tool Box describes ways of developing a plan for getting community issues on the local agenda.

Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women-Resource Centre Publications

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/staw>

The NS Advisory Council on the Status of Women's Resource Centre has a number of resources on community engagement and media strategies. For example:

- Good Policy, Good Health: An Information Action Kit for Women in Coastal Communities (2002) Catano, Janis Wood. Nova Scotia Women's FishNet – Halifax, Nova Scotia. Shelf Location: 362.140971 C357 2002
- A Guide To Creating Neighborhood Information Exchange: Building Communities by Connecting Local Skills and Knowledge (1998) Kretzmann, John P.; McKnight, John L. Puntenney, Deborah. Asset Based Community Development Institute, Center for Urban Affairs and Policy Research, Northwestern University. Shelf Location: 307.14 K92 1998
- Newspapers and Neighborhoods: Strategies for Achieving Responsible Coverage of Local Communities (1999) Kretzmann, John P.; McKnight, John L.; Asset-Based Community Development Institute. Asset Based Community Development Institute, Center for Urban Affairs and Policy Research, Northwestern University. Shelf Location: 307.14 K92 1999
- Women's Friendships and Public Policy (1997) Side, Katherine. Toronto, Canada. Shelf Location: 177.6082 S568 1997

- Who Will Speak for Us? A Consultation with Nova Scotian Women (1994) Day, Dian. Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women – Halifax, Canada. Shelf Location: 305.40609716 D273 1994
- Standing Up & Speaking Out: Women Reshaping the Public Policy Agenda (1997) Hunter, Stephanie. Standing Up Speaking Out Planning Committee – Halifax, Nova Scotia. Shelf Location: 305.4209716 H947 1997 (also available in French)
- Asking Citizens What Matters for the Quality of Life in Canada: A Rural Lens (2001) Canadian Policy Research Networks (CPRN) – Ottawa, Canada. Shelf Location: 306.097734 C212 2001
- Public Policy and Public Participation: Engaging Citizens and Community in the Development of Public Policy (2003) Smith, Bruce L.; BL Smith Groupwork Inc.; Canada. Health Canada. Population and Public Health Branch. Health Canada – Halifax, Nova Scotia. Shelf Location: 361.61 S643 2003
- Inclusive Social Policy Development: Ideas for Practitioners (1997) Canadian Council on Social Development – Ottawa, Canada. Shelf Location: 361.61 C212SD 1997

Resource Centre holdings can be viewed by the public during regular office hours. Your local library can also arrange an interlibrary loan for you.

For more information, contact: Appointments preferred (Mon-Fri: 8:30-4:30),
 Christine F. Corston Call or e-mail:
 Resource Centre Phone: (902) 424-5828
 6169 Quinpool Rd. Suite 202 Fax: (902) 424-0573
 Halifax e-mail: corstocf@gov.ns.ca

Preparing for an Interview: Print, TV or Radio

<http://www.nshrf.ca/AbsPage.aspx?id=1058&siteid=1&lang=1>

Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation
 PO Box 2684
 Halifax, NS
 B3J 3P7

(902) 424-4043
info@nshrf.ca

This resource from the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation helps to prepare you for an interview with print, television, or radio to help you get your message across.

Rural Tackle Box

<http://www.ruralnovascotia.ca/tacklebox/>

Rural Tackle Box provides numerous resources and websites on raising awareness and media advocacy. The Rural Tackle Box also provides links to numerous policy development resources and websites. Of special interest, the website contains the following resources for download:

- *A Brief Guide to Understanding Policy Development*
<http://www.ruralnovascotia.ca/tacklebox/rcipdocuments/policychangepapers/Understanding Policy Paper.doc>
This guide, written by Rural Communities Impacting Policy, discusses what policy is, who the major players are in the policy process, the timeframe for policy development, and the steps to influencing policy.
- *Challenges to Community Participation*
<http://www.ruralnovascotia.ca/tacklebox/rcipdocuments/policychangepapers/Challenges and Barriers.doc>
This paper, written by Rural Communities Impacting Policy, discusses the challenges to policy development faced by communities and government policy makers as well as some approaches and suggestions that government and communities can use to positively impact policy development at the rural level.

Policies in Action - Ontario Heart Health and Nutrition Resource Centres (2002)

<http://www.hhrc.net/policies.pdf>

Heart Health Resource Centre
Ontario Public Health Association
700 Lawrence Ave. West, Ste. 310
Toronto, Ontario M6A 3B4
Phone: (416) 367-3313 ext.232
E-mail: heart@opha.on.ca

There have been many documents created to guide communities through the process of policy development. However, there are few “collections of policies” to serve as a template for communities during the writing stage. This document is the beginning of this collection. The purpose of *Policies in Action* is to provide community health practitioners with a sampling of international, national, and local tobacco use prevention, healthy eating, and physical activity policies as a means of enhancing practitioner's knowledge and skills with respect to healthy policy development and implementation.

Taking Action Through Public Policy

http://www.atl.ec.gc.ca/community/pdf/public_policy_e.pdf

(Catalogue: En4-2/2002E ISBN: 0-662-32097-2)

Community Programs
Environment Canada

16th Floor, Queen Square
45 Alderney Drive
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B2Y 2N6

Email: ecoaction.atl@ec.gc.ca

Telephone: (902) 426-8521 in Halifax or 1-800-663-5755 toll-free in the Atlantic Provinces

This report examines the elements of public policy, demonstrates how to get involved, and highlights case studies on health and environment issues.

Capacity Building: Linking Community Experience to Public Policy

http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/canada/regions/atlantic/pdf/capacity_building_e.pdf

Atlantic Regional Office
Suite 1525, 15th Floor, Maritime Centre
1505 Barrington Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3Y6
Tel: (902) 426-2700
Email: atlantic-atlantique@phac-aspc.gc.ca

This resource, developed in 2000 by the Population and Public Health Branch, Atlantic Regional Office of Health Canada, is designed to help people in both the public sector and the community understand how to include community experience in the policy making process.

Code of Good Practice on Policy Dialogue

http://www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/policy/policy_code.cfm

Voluntary Sector Forum
85 Albert Street, Suite 1110
Ottawa, K1P 6A4
Phone: (613) 238-7555
Toll-free: 1-800- 821-8814
Email: info@vsi-isbc.org

Developed by the Joint Accord Table of the Voluntary Sector Initiative in October 2002, this *Code of Good Practice on Policy Dialogue* fulfils the Accord's commitment to take measures to put its provisions into action. As such, the Code is a tool for deepening the dialogue between the Government of Canada and the voluntary sector at the various stages of the public policy process in order to achieve better policies for Canadians.

Good Policy, Good Health- An Information and Action Kit for Women in Coastal Communities

Nova Scotia Women's FishNet
2099 Gottingen St.
Halifax, NS B3K 2B2
Phone: (902) 425-7778

Good Policy, Good Health (2002) is a practical tool that has been produced through community-based participatory research. It was developed to give women in coastal communities information that will help them to speak to their communities and policy makers about the issues that are affecting their lives. The Kit is most effective when used in a facilitated group that offers opportunities for community discussion and collective action. The Kit includes information on:

- Linking Problems, Policies, and Health
- Moving from Thought to Action
- How to Take Action
- Facilitators Notes and References
- Background Materials

Health Policy Guide

<http://www.healthpolicycoach.org/advocacy.asp?id=23>

This website coaches you step-by-step through the policy-making process. It guides you through the basics of civic involvement- from increasing public awareness and developing community partnerships, to understanding the policy process and educating policy-makers at all levels. Health Policy Guide (previously the Health Policy Coach) provides evidence-based, peer-reviewed policy guidance and resources to support advocacy and decision-making at the state and local levels. Search or browse over 150 policy topics. Brought to you by the California Centre for Health Improvement.

Participating in Federal Public Policy: A Guide for the Voluntary Sector

http://www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/policy/policy_guide/index.cfm

http://www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/policy/policy_code.cfm

Voluntary Sector Forum
85 Albert Street, Suite 1110
Ottawa, K1P 6A4
(613) 238-7555
Toll-free: 1-800- 821-8814
Email: info@vsi-isbc.org

Government Information

Nelson Thomson Learning

<http://www.nelson.com/nelson/polisci/parties.html>

Thomson Nelson
1120 Birchmount Road
Scarborough, ON
M1K 5G4
(416) 752-9448
1-800-268-2222
inquire@nelson.com

Political parties provide the basis for Canadian government. This website connects you to provincial parties and parties at work in federal politics.

Municipal Governments

Directory of Municipal Units

<http://www.munisource.org>

Phone: (902) 439-8092

[E-mail: munisource@munisource.org](mailto:munisource@munisource.org)

This website contains a directory for each municipality. Once you get on the website, type your search in 'Search for a Specific Municipality or Association'.

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr>

Service Nova Scotia &
Municipal Relations
Mail Room, 8 South, Maritime Centre
1505 Barrington Street
Halifax, NS
B3J 3K5
(902) 424-5200
1-800-670-4357 – toll-free within Nova Scotia

The Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations website contains information of interest concerning the municipal governments in Nova Scotia, including the following webpages:

- <http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/muns/contact/> Includes all municipal divisions for the province: regional municipalities, rural municipalities, towns, and incorporated villages.

- <http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/muns/info/> Basic understanding of municipal process, municipal roles and responsibilities, etc. Discusses municipal organizations, their historical background, and the electoral process of municipal governments in Nova Scotia.

The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities

<http://www.unsm.ca/>

Suite 1106, 1809 Barrington Street

Halifax, N.S. B3J 3K8

Phone: (902) 423-8331/8332

Fax:(902) 425-5592

E-mail: mainunsm@eastlink.ca

This website includes a list of municipalities and their contact information, addresses of mayors and wardens, and a review of municipal roles and responsibilities.

Nova Scotia Provincial Government

Government of Nova Scotia

<http://www.gov.ns.ca>

Service Nova Scotia &

Municipal Relations

Mail Room, 8 South, Maritime Centre

1505 Barrington Street

Halifax, NS

B3J 3K5

(902) 424-5200

1-800-670-4357 – toll-free within Nova Scotia

This is the homepage of the Government of Nova Scotia. Click on [Departments](#) and [Agencies](#) for more information on specific departmental information.

Nova Scotia Legislature

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/>

This website contains a library and online catalogue of legislature/government publications.

Nova Scotia MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly)

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/members/directory/constituencies.html>

This site lists members of the Nova Scotia Legislature. To find your MLA simply click on your region.

Government of Canada

Canadian Senators

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/information/about/people/Senate/SenIdx.asp?Language=E&CurrentSen=C>

On this website, you can search for a current list of senators by name, province, or party.

Electoral District Information

<http://www.elections.ca/home.asp?textonly=false>

To find your electoral district/member of House of Commons, simply enter your postal code in the center of the screen and click on “go”. Some of the information provided includes electoral district maps, candidate/MP information, and electoral district profiles.

Federal Government Departments

http://www.gc.ca/depts/major/depind_e.html

This comprehensive web-based list provides direct links to the primary websites of Government of Canada departments, agencies, and Crown Corporations, as well as links to websites maintained by organizations for which various departments and agencies are responsible.

Finding Your MP

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/information/about/people/house/PostalCode.asp?Source=SM>

To find your Member of Parliament simply type in your postal code in the box provided on this website.

Government of Canada

<http://www.gc.ca/>

The official website of the Government of Canada.

List of MPs (Members of Parliament)

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/SenatorsMembers.asp?Language=E&Parl=37&Ses=1>

Information Service,
Parliament of Canada,
Ottawa, Ontario,
K1A 0A9.

Toll-free (Canada): 1 (866) 599-4999

Telephone: 1 (613) 992-4793

TTY: 1 (613) 995-2266

Email: info@parl.gc.ca

This site contains a listing of the members of the House of Commons and Senate.

Parliamentary Process- Canada's Parliament at Work

http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/AboutParl_Process.asp?Language=E

Information Service,
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K1A 0A9.

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Email: info@parl.gc.ca

This site explores Canada's parliamentary system, from the decisions made by the Fathers of Confederation, to the daily work of Members of Parliament in the Commons and Senate chambers. Useful information on Canada's constitution, the judicial system, and provincial and municipal powers is also available.

Community Based Transportation in Nova Scotia – Provincial Government Role

The Province of Nova Scotia, through Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations delivers the *Community Transportation Assistance Program (CTAP)*. This program is intended to promote the delivery and provide operating support for cost effective and sustainable community based inclusive transportation services in low population density communities in Nova Scotia. Community based inclusive transportation is defined as *services that respond to the unmet needs of all persons who have a transportation disadvantage*. Priorities and needs are determined by the community. Services are developed and provided by non-profit organizations through partnerships formed among public, private, non-profit, and volunteer resources and services.

At the date of this report (November 2005), accessible, affordable transportation is being provided to nearly half of the Province's rural areas through the nine services that receive funding. In fiscal year, 2003 – 2004, approximately 90,000 rides were provided.

Eligibility

The basis for program grants includes the following criteria:

- Funding for the Community Transportation Assistance Program is available to municipalities and non-profit community-based organizations (incorporated groups) involved in the delivery of inclusive transportation services in low-population density areas of the Province.
- The grant will only apply to rural and semi-rural service regions with a population density at or below 0.15 persons per acre.
- Services must have at least \$1 million liability insurance and \$2 million passenger hazard on vehicle(s), and meet the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board requirement to have vehicle(s) inspected every 6 months
- Board of Directors and Volunteers must have \$2 million liability insurance coverage.
- Grants are not to be used for capital leasing or debt service expenses.
- Grants are to be capped at a minimum service level of 0.3 rides/capita/annum and will be discounted for levels below this point. Grants will also be discounted for any profits made by the service.
- Only one service per region will be eligible with no service overlaps.
- All services must currently be, or intend to be (as demonstrated in the service plan), accessible and inclusive, in keeping with priorities established at the community level and within the licence and capacity limits of the local service.

Funding (based on fiscal year 2005-2006)

The Community Transportation Assistance Program (CTAP) provides financial support to cover a portion of the operating costs of a community-based transportation service. In addition, eligible organizations interested in developing new community-based transportation services are eligible for the grant upon approval by Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations (SNSMR) of a summary business plan.

The Province will provide grants to eligible organizations at a maximum \$1.60 per capita in a service area, subject to funding availability. Grants will be discounted proportionally for service levels below 0.2 rides per capita/annum.

The CTAP Program will provide for 'one time' grants to a maximum of \$5,000, based on budget availability, to organizations interested in developing new services in regions. Grants are for start-up work, including: needs assessments, business and financial planning, organizational development, etc.

SNSMR also offers the *Accessible Transportation Assistance Program (ATAP)*. The purpose of ATAP is the enhancement of existing inclusive transportation services through the purchase of an accessible vehicle or modification of an existing vehicle.

Eligibility

Funding is available to communities, organizations or groups involved in the delivery of a community accessible transportation service, including the private sector.

Funding

Funding of up to \$100,000 per fiscal year (April to March) may be available. Funding of up to \$20,000 towards the purchase of a 'new' accessible vehicle or \$10,000 for a 'used' may also be available, subject to certain terms and conditions.

For more information, contact:

Rene Frigault, CTAP Program Administration Officer
Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations
1505 Barrington Street,
14 North Maritime Center
PO Box 216, Halifax, NS
B3J 2M4
P: (902) 424-2088
F: (902) 424-0821
email: frigaurj@gov.ns.ca
website: www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/dialaride

NS Utility and Review Board

The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board is responsible for the regulation of all public passenger carriers within the province and inter-provincial carriers operating to or from Nova Scotia. To contact the NSURB:

Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board
3rd Floor, Summit Place
1601 Lower Water Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3P6

Mailing Address:
Box 1692, Unit "M"
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3S3

Telephone: (902) 424-4448
Fax: (902) 424-3919
Email: uarb.board@gov.ns.ca
Website: <http://www.nsuarb.ca/index.html>

NS Seniors Secretariat *Strategy for Positive Aging in Nova Scotia* - Transportation Goal

The Nova Scotia Seniors' Secretariat, (www.gov.ns.ca/scs/default.htm) has developed the *Strategy for Positive Aging in Nova Scotia*. The Strategy is both a framework for government action and a guide to help all sectors create senior-friendly communities.

The Strategy includes nine goals for positive aging. The goals are:

1. Celebrating Seniors

Nova Scotians value seniors and celebrate their lifelong contributions.

2. Financial Security

Secure and sufficient income provides an adequate standard of living for seniors.

3. Health and Well-Being

A range of supports and services enables seniors to optimize their health and well-being.

4. Maximizing Independence

Seniors enjoy maximum independence with support from family, friends, community and government.

5. Housing Options

Affordable, accessible, safe and supportive housing options are available to seniors.

6. Transportation

Affordable, safe and accessible transportation options are available to seniors.

7. Respecting Diversity

Nova Scotians recognize, respect and respond positively to seniors in all their diversity.

8. Employment and Life Transitions

Workplaces support and encourage the participation, health, lifelong learning and volunteer activities of older workers.

9. Supportive Communities

Seniors have opportunities for personal growth, lifelong learning, and community participation in safe and supportive environments.

The Transportation goal of the Strategy reflects four areas of concern for seniors – affordability and access; licensing of drivers; rural and urban needs; and pedestrian safety and falls prevention.

Transportation Goal:

Affordable, safe and accessible transportation options are available to seniors.

Societal Actions

Affordable, Accessible Transportation

- 1) Expand transportation options to meet the needs of an aging population, especially in rural communities, ensuring that a lack of transportation does not prevent seniors from accessing essential services and participating in their communities.
- 2) Ensure public transportation options are user-friendly in terms of accessibility, routes, schedules and affordability, and are safe for all ages.
- 3) Examine policies in other jurisdictions to determine the best method for reducing costs incurred by volunteers providing community-based transportation.

Driver Licensing

4. Continue to assess the driving ability of seniors in ways that balance safety concerns while respecting the dignity and independence of each individual.
5. Increase awareness of how certain drugs and drug/alcohol mixtures impact driving ability.
6. Increase awareness of the availability and benefits of safe driving courses and the Seniors' Safe Driving Discount Program.
7. Develop education and awareness programs to encourage older drivers to think about how they will remain mobile if they can no longer drive.

Rural and Urban Needs

8. Explore innovative ways to better utilize the transportation resources within communities.
9. Encourage better coordination, collaboration and sharing of transportation resources within communities.
10. Promote and celebrate best practices for transportation models that serve seniors.
11. Promote methods of active transportation (e.g. walking and cycling) and ensure routes are senior-friendly.
12. Identify opportunities to encourage the broader use and development of affordable, alternative forms of transportation such as scooters, golf carts, and motorized bicycles, and investigate the need to provide infrastructure that supports their safe operation.
13. Improve the transportation environment by making signs, road markings and highway design more senior friendly.

Pedestrian Safety and Falls Prevention

14. Improve the safety of streets and walkways, and continue working with community partners to increase awareness among seniors and the general public that most injuries can be prevented through personal and community actions.

(Strategy for Positive Aging in Nova Scotia, 2005)

The Strategy for Positive Aging for Nova Scotia is available by contacting the Seniors' Secretariat:

Nova Scotia Seniors' Secretariat
1740 Granville Street
PO Box 2065
Halifax, NS B3J 2Z1
Fax: (902)424-0561
E-mail: SCS@gov.ns.ca

Seniors Information Line:
1-800-670-0065 (toll-free)
(902) 424-0065 (Metro area)

The Strategy can also be downloaded from the Secretariat's website:
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/scs/pubs/Strategy-positive-aging.pdf>

NOVA SCOTIA COMMUNITY BASED TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION

The Nova Scotia Community-based Transportation Association (NS-CBTA) is comprised of organizations that provide a program/service that responds to the unmet needs of all persons who have a transportation disadvantage. NS-CBTA provides an on-going 'centre of influence' that encourages the development and growth of community-based transportation in Nova Scotia.

BACKGROUND

In October 2000, approximately 120 stakeholders representing over 50 organizations met at the premier Inclusive Transportation Conference and Trade Show 2000 in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. This conference was an initiative of the Province of Nova Scotia through the Inclusive Transportation Pilot Program.

One of the outcomes of this conference was the consensus of the delegates that all three levels of government have a responsibility to support the sustainability of inclusive community based transportation. In addition, a conference workshop focused on the need for a provincial organization and this resulted in the formation of a Core Committee of service providers and consumer organizations to steer the development of this organization.

On February 1, 2001, the founding meeting of the newly incorporated Nova Scotia Community-based Transportation Association NS-CBTA was held and an interim President and Executive Director were appointed.

VISION STATEMENT

All Nova Scotians with a transportation disadvantage have equitable access to community based transportation programs.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Nova Scotia Community Based Transportation Association will work towards this vision through public education, policy development and the development of programs and services.

GOALS NS-CBTA:

- 1) To promote public awareness and education, develop policy, and share information among community-based transportation providers both within and outside Nova Scotia.

- 2) To provide program service delivery support, and
- 3) To develop a provincial membership of organizations representing service providers and consumer groups such as, disabled, disadvantaged, seniors, unemployed, etc.

BENEFITS OF JOINING NS-CBTA

- Opportunities to network and share information regarding community-based inclusive transportation through annual meetings, conferences, regional workshops, discussion groups, etc.
- A forum for liaising with all 3 levels of government
- Opportunities to reduce costs by pooling resources for: vehicle bulk purchasing, leasing, training, fuel, maintenance, dispatching software, etc.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

To join NS-CBTA or for more information, contact:

Claredon Robicheau
RR 1, Box 175
Church Point, NS
B0W 1M0
(902) 769-2477
crobicheau@auracom.com

COMMUNITY BASED TRANSPORTATION SERVICES IN NOVA SCOTIA

Antigonish Seniors Care Van Society

Mode of Transportation: Accessible Van

Contact Information

Telephone Number: (902) 863-1855 and (902) 863-4361

Address: 1-1A Dolarosa Ave.
Antigonish, Nova Scotia
B2G 1T2

Hours of Operation

- Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
- Pre-booked weekend trips may be made for special occasions.

Geographic Area Served

Serves the town and county of Antigonish.

Description of Services Provided

A fully accessible service designed to transport elderly or disabled individuals safely and effectively to any destination.

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

- No registration required.
- 24 hour notice for booking preferred.
- Available to non-residents.

Colchester Transportation Cooperative Ltd. (CTCL)

Mode of Transportation

Accessible buses

Contact Information

Web site: <http://www.ctcl.ca>

Telephone Number: (902) 896-7433 and toll free: 1 877 305-7433

Fax Number: (902) 896-7433

E-mail: ctcl@ns.sympatico.ca

Address: 35 Commercial St., Suite 201
Truro, NS
B2N 3H9

Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday: 7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Weekends: on request

Nights: on request

Geographic Area Serviced

Colchester County

Description of Services Provided

- 1 accessible bus with 16 seats and space for 4 wheelchairs
- 1 accessible bus with 12 seats and space for 2 wheelchairs

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

Rides must be booked in advance.

Le Transport de Clare

Mode of Transportation

Accessible vans

Contact Information

Telephone Number: (902) 769-2477 and toll free: 1 877 305-7433

E-mail: crobicheau@auracom.com

Address: RR 1, Box 175
Church Point, NS
B0W 1M0

Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Geographic Area Served

Municipality of Clare and parts of Digby County.

Description of Services Provided

- Door-to-door transportation service.
- 2 accessible vans (both can accommodate 1 wheelchair passenger).

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

Rides must be booked 24 hours in advance.
Visitors are welcome.

East Hants Alternative Transportation Service (EHATS)

Mode of Transportation

Volunteer vehicles and drivers

Contact Information

Web site:

Telephone Number: (902) 883-4716 and toll free: 1 877 305-7433

Fax Number: (902) 883-2521

Toll Free: 1-877-305-7433 opt # 8

Email: E_H_A_T_S@hotmail.com

Address: The Nova Centre, Suite 101a
224 Hwy #214
Elmsdale NS B2S 1J7

Hours of Operation 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Geographic Area Serviced East Hants

Description of Services Provided

Provides a low-cost alternative transportation service to East Hants residents. Serving primarily individuals challenged by a lack of reliable affordable transportation. In order to meet our mandate of providing an inclusive service, we are currently pursuing the purchase of a wheelchair-accessible vehicle.

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

- Individuals wishing to access this service must sign up as members.
- A 48-hour ride request notice is required.
- Those needing attendant care are required to provide their own attendants. Attendants travel with the member at no additional charge.

West Hants Dial-A-Ride

Mode of Transportation

Accessible van and other vehicles

Contact Information

Web site: <http://www.hantscountycan.org>

Telephone Number: (902) 792-1800 and toll free: 1 877 305-7433

Fax Number: (902) 792-1801

Email: hcc@hantscountycan.org

Address: 80 Water St.
P.O. box 2618 Windsor, NS
B0N 2T0

Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Geographic Area Serviced

- Annapolis Valley
- Halifax
- Dartmouth
- Communities in Hants County

Description of Services Provided

- The accessible van can accommodate 2 wheelchairs and 11 ambulatory passengers, or 6 wheelchairs.
- Team of volunteer drivers with their own vehicles.

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

- Rides must be booked 48 hours in advance.
- Attendant services are not provided; the attendant travels free of charge.
- Provides accessible transportation for seniors, persons with disabilities, persons of low income, and youth who reside in West Hants.
- The service is provided to members only. Memberships are available for an annual fee of \$20.

Kings County Alternative Transportation Services Society

Mode of Transportation

Accessible van and other vehicles

Contact Information

Web site:

Telephone Number: (902) 681-2846 and toll free: 1 877-305-7433

Fax Number: (902)

E-mail:

Address: PO Box 114, Station Main
Kentville, NS
B4N 1H4

Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday, 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Expanded hours available on request.

Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Geographic Area Serviced

Kings County (excluding Kingston/Greenwood area)

Description of Services Provided

- 1 accessible van with 3 seats and space for 2 wheelchairs.
- 1 non-accessible van
- Volunteer drivers

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

This service is available only to members (application form) and visitors requiring wheelchair accessible transportation.

KCATSS does not provide attendant services.

Trans County Transportation Society

Mode of Transportation

- One accessible van - 2 wheelchairs, 1 passenger or 1 wheelchair and 4 passengers
- One non-accessible car
- One accessible mini-bus (for special events)

Contact Information

Telephone Number: (902) 665-1212 Toll free: 1-877-305-7433 ext. 7

Fax Number: (902) 665-4029

E-mail: admin.tcts@ns.sympatico.ca

Address: 26 Bay Road,
Box 193,
Bridgetown, NS B0S 1C0

Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday, 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Office closed on statutory holidays.

Rides can be booked 7 days/week.

Geographic Area Serviced

- All of Annapolis and Digby Counties.
- Digby Municipality
- Kings West
- Connection service to Kings Transit services

Description of Services Provided

- 2 staff paid drivers (one qualified for maintenance) and training of volunteers and other drivers
- Volunteer drivers with own vehicles

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

Rides must be booked 24 hours in advance.

Must be a member to use the service. Members must fall in target groups as defined by mission statement "to provide alternative transportation services to the disabled, senior, and economically disadvantaged residents of service area".

Central Highlands Association for the Disabled (CHAD)

Mode of Transportation

Accessible minibuses

Contact Information

Telephone Number: (902) 928-1234 and toll free: 1 877 305-7433

Fax Number: (902) 928-0512

E-mail: c.h.a.d.@ns.sympatico.ca

Address: 387 Meadowlark Dr.
New Glasgow, NS
B2H 1S2

Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday: 7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Saturday: 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M

Geographic Area Serviced

Pictou County

Description of Services Provided

- 16 passenger mini-bus (or 5 wheelchair positions)
- 12 passenger mini-bus (or 4 wheelchair positions)
- 16 passenger mini-bus (or 8 wheelchair positions)
- 18 passenger bus – front facer (or 4 wheelchair positions)
- 17 passenger mini-bus (or 6 wheelchair positions)

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

Pre-booked service.

Able-Transit Wheel Chair Bus

Mode of Transportation

Accessible Bus

Contact Information

Telephone Number: (902) 895-2110

Address: 773 Prince St.
Truro, Nova Scotia
B2N 5Z5

Hours of Operation

- Monday to Friday, 7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
- No weekend service.

Geographic Area Served

Serves the town of Truro and the surrounding area.

Description of Services Provided

Fully accessible door-to-door transportation service for the elderly and people with disabilities.

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

- Users must register.
- Service is available to non-residents.
- Service provides free rides for attendants.

Handicapped Organization Promoting Equality (HOPE)

Mode of Transportation

Accessible mini-vans

Contact Information

Telephone Number: (902) 742-6579 and toll free: 1 877 305-7433

Fax Number: (902) 742-1281

E-mail: hopecentre@ns.sympatico.ca

Address: HOPE Center
84 Main St.
P.O. box 562
Yarmouth, NS
B5A 4B4

Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday: 7:15 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Special arrangements can be made on weekends.

Geographic Area Serviced

Yarmouth County (Town of Yarmouth and municipalities of Yarmouth and Argyle)

Description of Services Provided

- 2 – 7 passenger accessible mini-vans
- Charter services available.

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

Rides must be booked 24 hours in advance.

OTHER COMMUNITY BASED TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
(Not Funded by CTAP)
Listed By Municipality

Annapolis County

Kings Transit

Mode of Transportation: Accessible Low Floor (ALF) Bus

Contact Information

Telephone Number: 902-678-7310 or 1-888-546-4442 (toll free)

Address: Kings Transit Authority
PO Box 100
Kentville, Nova Scotia
B4N 3W3

E-mail: info@kingstransit.ns.ca

Website: <http://www.kingstransit.ns.ca>

Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday, 6:00 am to 9:00 pm
Saturday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Geographic Area Serviced

Serves the Annapolis Valley area from Wolfville to Weymouth, including Digby

Description of Services Provided

This service provides public transportation on fixed routes. An Accessible Low Floor (ALF) bus has been added to serve Wolfville and Greenwood. The ALF service makes it easier for individuals with physical disabilities to use Kings Transit.

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

- Several conditions must be met to use the ALF service.
- Discount price available to seniors

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Handi-Trans

Mode of Transportation: Wheelchair Accessible Bus

Contact Information

Telephone Number: 902-539-4336

Address: 227 Welton St.
Sydney, NS
B1P 6T7

Mailing Address
Civic Centre
320 Esplanade
B1P 7B9

E-mail: dlmacdonald@cbrm.ns.ca

Hours of Operation

- Available by appointment, Monday to Saturday, 8:00 am to 11:00 pm

Geographic Area Serviced

Serves Industrial Cape Breton (areas of Sydney, North Sydney, and Sydney Mines)

Description of Services Provided

Handi-Trans is a shared-ride, door-to-door public transportation service for registered mobility impaired residents of seven municipalities in Industrial Cape Breton. The service is operated by the Cape Breton Regional Transit Authority.

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

- Non-nursing home residents must apply for eligibility
- Advanced booking required (24 hours); however, will make exceptions for emergencies.

Digby County

Kings Transit

Mode of Transportation: Accessible Low Floor (ALF) Bus

Contact Information

Telephone Number: 902-678-7310 or 1-888-546-4442 (toll free)

Address: Kings Transit Authority
PO Box 100
Kentville, NS
B4N 3W3

E-mail: dbrownell@kingstransit.ns.ca
info@kingstransit.ns.ca

Website: <http://www.kingstransit.ns.ca>

Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday, 6:00 am to 9:00 pm
Saturdays, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Geographic Area Serviced

Serves the Annapolis Valley area from Wolfville to Weymouth, including Digby

Description of Services Provided

This service provides public transportation on fixed routes. An Accessible Low Floor (ALF) bus has been added to serve Wolfville and Greenwood. The ALF service makes it easier for individuals with physical disabilities to use Kings Transit.

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

- Several conditions must be met to use the ALF service.
- Discount price available to seniors

Halifax Regional Municipality

An Extra Hand Transportation

Mode of Transportation: Four door car

Contact Information

Telephone Number: (902) 830-7244

Address: 6779 Edward Arab Ave.
Halifax, NS
B3L 2E2

Hours of Operation

- Monday to Friday, usually between 5:30 am to 5:30 pm

Geographic Area Serviced

Serves Halifax/Dartmouth Area

Description of Services Provided

Private service offers door-to-door transportation in Halifax/Dartmouth area.

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

- Book in advance (at least 24 hours)
- Clients must be mobile

Book-A-Ride

Mode of Transportation: Volunteer's own vehicle

Contact Information

Telephone Number: (902) 864-5591 or (902) 864-2165

Address: 45 Connelly Rd.
Lower Sackville, NS
B4E 1S6

Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Geographic Area Served

Serves most of HRM

Description of Services Provided

This service provides transportation to medical appointments for seniors and those with disabilities.

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

- 24 hour notice for booking
- Clients must be mobile

Need-A-Lift Transportation Services

Mode of Transportation: Accessible Taxi

Contact Information

Telephone Number: (902) 222-LIFT (5438)

Address: Eastern HRM Partnership Council
11 Glendale Ave., Unit 9
Lower Sackville, NS
B4C 3P2

E-mail: needalift@eastlink.ca

Hours of Operation

Monday to Saturday (no fixed hours)

Geographic Area Serviced

Provides wheelchair accessible bus and taxi services to HRM.

Description of Services Provided

Through the Dial-a-Ride network, this service provides safe, affordable and accessible public transit to people who are disabled, elderly, or disadvantaged.

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

- Must use a wheelchair or scooter
- May have up to three escorts free of charge (depending on availability)
- Charter of van during 'off hours' may be arranged.

VON Transportation

Mode of Transportation: Volunteer's own vehicle

Contact Information

Telephone Number: 902-455-7433

Address: 7001 Mumford Road
Tower 1, Suite 300
Halifax, NS
B3L 4N9

E-mail: Greater.Halifax@von.ca

Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Geographic Area Serviced

Halifax Regional Municipality

Description of Services

This service provides people in the Halifax Regional Municipality with transportation to health-related appointments, errands, etc.

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

- Booking is required one week in advance

Access-A-Bus

Mode of Transportation: Accessible Bus

Contact Information

Telephone Number: 902-490-6999, and **TTY:** 902-490-6664

Address: Metro Transit
Transit Services – Access-A-Bus
Halifax Regional Municipality
200 Ilesley Ave.
Dartmouth, NS B3B 1V1

E-mail: contactHRM@region.halifax.ns.ca

Website: http://www.halifax.ca/metrotransit/access_a_bus.html

Hours of Operation

Monday to Sunday (including holidays); 6:00 am to 1:00 am

Geographic Area Serviced

The service operates within the communities of Halifax, Dartmouth, Bedford and the suburban area of Sackville, Colby Village, Eastern Passage, Forest Hills, Herring Cove, and Bay Road.

Description of Services Provided

Access-A-Bus service is a shared ride, door-to-door, public transit system for persons who are unable to use the conventional, (Non Low Floor), transit system, due to a physical or cognitive disability and are declared eligible through a registration process. The Access-A-Bus service is meant to supplement the Metro Transit fixed route system.

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

- Registration required
- Available to non-residents, who are registered with a similar service- 48 hour notice is required.

Callow Wheelchair Buses

Mode of Transportation: Wheelchair accessible bus

Contact Information

Telephone Number: (902) 422-9433

Address: 1280 Tower Rd, Room 265
Bethune Building
P.O Box 33034
Halifax, NS
B3L 4T6

E-mail: callowvetsbus@ns.sympatico.ca

Website: www.waltercallow.ca

Hours of Operation

Bus operates seven days a week. Flexible hours

Geographic Area Serviced

Halifax Regional Municipality and surrounding area

Description of Services Provided

Wheelchair accessible buses can be booked by groups who require transportation for recreational purposes. This is a not-for-profit service dedicated to providing group and recreational transportation for veterans and physically challenged persons. Callow Wheelchair Buses is a non-profit organization.

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

- Call in advance for booking

Kings County

Kings Transit

Mode of Transportation: Accessible Low Floor (ALF) Bus

Contact Information

Telephone Number: 902-681-2846 or 1-888-546-4442 (toll free)

Address: Kings Transit Authority
PO Box 100
Kentville, Nova Scotia
B4N 3W3

E-mail: dbrownell@kingstransit.ns.ca
info@kingstransit.ns.ca

Website: <http://www.kingstransit.ns.ca>

Hours of Operation

Geographic Area Serviced

Serves the Annapolis Valley area from Wolfville to Weymouth, including Digby

Description of Services Provided

This service provides public transportation on fixed-routes. An Accessible Low Floor (ALF) bus has been added to service Wolfville and Greenwood. The ALF service makes it easier for individuals with physical disabilities to use Kings Transit.

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

- Several conditions must be met to use the ALF service.
- Discount price available to seniors

Lunenburg County

Senior Wheels Association, Bridgewater

Mode of Transportation: Eight-passenger wheelchair accessible bus

Contact Information

Telephone Number: (902) 543-2255

Address: PO Box 381
Bridgewater, NS
B4V 2W9

Hours of Operation

- Working hours Monday to Saturday.
- Some evenings by request
- Sunday church service for wheelchair clients only.

Geographic Area Serviced

Serves the town of Bridgewater and surrounding area (7 km outside the town limits).

Description of Services Provided

This is a free service offered to seniors and disabled persons of all ages and is sponsored by the Bluenose Golden K. Kiwanis Club.

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

- 24 hour notice for booking preferred.

Pictou County

VON Volunteer Transportation Program

Mode of Transportation: Volunteer's own vehicle

Contact Information

Telephone Number: 902-755-4524

Address: P. O. Box 45
New Glasgow, NS
B2H 5E1

E-mail: w.macdon@vonpictou.ns.ca

Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday, during the day

Geographic Area Serviced

Pictou County

Description of Services Provided

Transportation to health related appointments in Pictou County is provided during the day, Monday to Friday.

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

- Advanced booking required

Queens County

VON Seniors' Assisted Transportation Program

Mode of Transportation: Ford Focus Hatchback (not wheelchair accessible)

Contact Information

Telephone Number: 902-354-3297

Address: P. O. Box 781
Waterfront Plaza
Liverpool, NS
B0T 1K0

E-mail: vonqueens@ns.sympatico.ca

Hours of Operation

Operates Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm (however, hours are flexible)

Geographic Area Serviced

Southern Queen's County

Description of Services

In partnership with Queens County Crime Prevention Program, this service provides transportation to medical appointments, grocery stores, banks and other important location for seniors.

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

- Clients have to be mobile
- Vehicle is not wheelchair accessible

Yarmouth County

Hut's Transit

Mode of Transportation: 15 to 20 passenger, wheelchair accessible bus

Contact Information

Telephone Number: 902-749-4309

Address: Hut's Transit
RR # 1
South Ohio, NS
B0W 3E0

Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Geographic Area Served

Town of Yarmouth

Description of Services

This service provides public transportation on fixed routes within the town of Yarmouth.

Restrictions and/or Requirements for Use

- Must be a senior citizen or person with a disability.

Information on seniors' transportation services is available in the Nova Scotia Seniors' Secretariat's ***Programs for Seniors Directory***, updated annually. It has a section on Transportation, including the Dial-a-Ride network and Transportation Services by Area and County.

1740 Granville St.
PO Box 2065
Halifax, NS B3J 2Z1
Email: scs@gov.ns.ca
Seniors Information Line:
1-800-670-0065
(902) 424-0065 (Metro area)

Download here:
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/scs/pubs/ProgramsForSeniors2005.pdf>

Launching a community based transportation service – tips for being prepared

- Contact Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations staff
- Understand the programs' application forms and complete correctly
- Work with your local municipal unit, keep them informed, establish a partnership for support and resources
- Ensure your group is incorporated under the Registry of Joint Stock Companies. Investigate the viability of applying for charitable status.
- Develop income and expense statements for your service
- Develop promotional materials – look at what established services have done and learn from them
- Ensure your vehicle(s) are adequately insured and documentation is available
- Budget for and establish liability insurance for the Board of Directors and volunteers
- Ensure volunteers within your program are properly screened and carry adequate insurance
- Establish a wide circle of allies and partners for your service. Be clear about the nature of your partnership and keep them informed of your progress and the benefits to their organization. Consider:
 - Service organizations
 - Health centres
 - Faith community
 - Long term care facilities
 - School boards (transporting children with special needs)
 - Sport and recreation providers.

BUILDING A STRONG ORGANIZATION - SELECTED RESOURCES

When considering the development of a community based transportation service, an important component of planning is to ensure that your organization has considered its own health as an organization. It is important to consider:

- how your organization is governed and managed,
- how volunteers are recruited, trained, screened and retained
- what policies and procedures are in place for staff and volunteers
- legal liability and insurance implications.

The following resources may be useful as you strengthen your organization.

Volunteer Transportation Guide: A Screening Tool (Volunteer Canada)

<http://www.volunteer.ca/volunteer/pdf/Transportation.pdf>

Volunteer Canada

330 Gilmour Street, Second Floor

Ottawa, ON K2P 0P6

Phone: (613) 231-4371

Toll-free: 1-800-670-0401

Fax: (613) 231-6725

e-mail: info@volunteer.ca

This guide has been designed to assist community support organizations to deliver safe volunteer transportation services to seniors and people with special needs. It addresses the security needs of vulnerable clients who are transported to medical appointments, shopping, social activities, and organized programs by volunteers in private vehicles.

Non-Profit Organizations- A Nova Scotia Guide

Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia

5523 B Young Street

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 1Z7

Tel: (902) 454-2198 Fax: (902) 455-3105 Email: lisns@legalinfo.org

Published in October 1999 by the Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia, this 74-page resource is useful for all non-profit organizations- especially newly incorporated organizations or those considering incorporation. Price is \$10.00 (Canadian funds, includes shipping and handling).

Develop a Financial Plan

http://ctb.ku.edu/tools/en/section_1297.htm

This section of the Community Tool Box has information about developing a financial plan for sustainability. It addresses the following topics:

- What is a plan for financial sustainability?
- Why should you complete a plan for financial sustainability?
- When should you develop a plan for financial sustainability?
- How do you plan for financial sustainability?
- Tips from the field

Registry of Joint Stock Companies- Nova Scotia Department of Business and Consumer Services

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/rjsc/>

Registry of Joint Stock
Companies

P.O.Box 1529

Halifax, NS, B3J 2Y4

Or any Access Nova Scotia office

(902) 424-7770

Toll-free in Nova Scotia:

1-800-225-8227

Email: joint-stocks@gov.ns.ca

This website contains information on incorporating a non-profit or volunteer organization under the *Societies Act of Nova Scotia*. Services provided include reserving and registering society names and registering to operate in NS.

Board Development

<http://www.boarddevelopment.org/>

This website, hosted and maintained by the United Way of Canada- Centraid Canada, provides extensive information in English and French on board development:

- The Board's Role
- Importance of Board Governance
- The Components of Board Governance
- The Steps of Effective Board Operations
- Quick Checklists
- Tools and Resources
- Training and Tools for Board Volunteers
- Training and Tools for Voluntary Sector Staff

It includes a number of checklists and resources to help voluntary organizations make decisions about board development, and has sample policies, by-laws, and staff/board job descriptions for different board models. The materials are copyrighted, and permission is needed to use them. For more information, e-mail: info@boarddevelopment.com.

Halifax Regional Development Agency Board Development Resources

11 Glendale Avenue, Unit 9
Lower Sackville, NS
B4C 3P2
Phone: (902) 869 4040
Toll Free: 1 800 650 0039
Email: halifaxrda@halifaxrda.ca
<http://www.halifaxrda.ca/>

The Halifax Regional Development Agency website offers a number of reference files pertaining to board functionality and incorporating as a non-profit in Nova Scotia. The website also provides a short primer concerning options for different organizational structures, as well as a board self-evaluation questionnaire.

Legal Responsibilities of Boards

<http://collegeofcontinuinged.dal.ca/nonprofit/resources/LegalResponsibilitiesofBoards.pdf>

College of Continuing Education (formerly Henson College)
Suite 201, City Centre Atlantic
5523 Spring Garden Road
Halifax, NS B3J 3T1
(902) 494-2526
Email: Henson-info@dal.ca

This resource, produced by Dalhousie University's Non-Profit Sector Leadership Program, outlines the legal responsibilities of boards. This site also offers a number of additional resources for not for profit organizations.

The National Skills Program

<http://www.recreationns.ns.ca/workshops>

Recreation Nova Scotia

5516 Spring Garden Road, Suite 309

Halifax, NS

B3J 1G6

(902) 425-1128

E-mail: info@recreationns.ns.ca

The National Skills program available through Recreation Nova Scotia is a complete workshop series supported with useful resources and training materials - all written especially for volunteers, staff, trainers and leaders of the Voluntary Sector. Recreation Nova Scotia will organize workshops for groups of eight (8) and more. Each workshop is 3 hours in length. The workshop is \$150.00, plus \$14.00 per manual/ per participant for RNS members (non-member rates also available). Topics include:

- Volunteers Working Together
- Meetings with Results
- Fundraising for Results
- Organizing For Results
- Developing An Organization
- Financial Management
- Time Management
- Short Term and Long Term Planning
- Recruiting Volunteers and Staff
- Orientation
- Executive Responsibilities
- Marketing
- Leadership

APPENDIX A: SIP-T Steering Committee

Organizational Partners

Community Links

Sandra Murphy, Provincial Coordinator
PO Box 29103
5516 Spring Garden Road, Suite 309
Halifax NS
B3L 4T8
(902) 425-1128
(902) 422-8201
admin@nscommunitylinks.ca
www.nscommunitylinks.ca/index.php

Carol Welch, President
P.O. Box 1177
Westport , NS B0V 1H0
(Ph) 839-2733
carolwe@tartannet.ns.ca

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

Rene Frigault, CTAP Program Admin. Officer Service
1505 Barrington Street, 14 North Maritime Centre
PO Box 216, Halifax, NS B3J 2M4
P: (902) 424-2088
F: (902) 424-0821
email: frigaurj@gov.ns.ca
website: www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/dialaride

Nova Scotia Seniors Secretariat

Steven Coyle, (member - October 2004 – May 2005)
4th Floor, Dennis Building
P.O. Box 2065, Halifax, NS B3J 2Z1
(902) 424-4649
Fax: (902) 424-0561
E-Mail: praughh@gov.ns.ca
Website: www.gov.ns.ca/scs

NS Advisory Council on the Status of Women

Brigitte Neumann
Executive Director
Ste. 202, 6169 Quinpool Rd.
Halifax, NS B3J 2T3
902 424-7548 (phone)
1-800-565-8662 (toll free in NS)

*SIP-T
Public Policy & Community Based Transportation Resource*

902 424-0573 (fax)
neumannb@gov.ns.ca
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/staw>

Nova Scotia Centre on Aging
Cathy Crouse (October 2004 – June 2005)
Mount Saint Vincent University
166 Bedford Highway, Halifax NS B3M 2J6
Phone: (902) 457-6546
Fax: (902) 457-6508

Veterans Affairs Canada – Halifax District Office
Mary Burey
Chebucto Place
7105 Chebucto Road, Suite 200
P.O. Box 8063
Halifax, NS B3K 5L8
mburey@vac-acc.gc.ca
phone 902-4261953 fax 902-426-2349

Public Health Agency of Canada
Irene Rose
1525-1505 Barrington St.
Halifax, NS
B3Y 3Y6
902 426-1536
Fax 902 426-9689
Irene_rose@phac-aspc.gc.ca

NS Community Based Transportation Association (corresponding member)
Vicki Spriggs, Past-Chair
Nova Scotia Community-based Transportation Association
PO Box 2618
80 Water Street, Windsor, NS
B0N 2T0
P: (902) 792-1802

APPENDIX B:

Nova Scotia Community Based Transportation Resources

As new community based transportation organizations begin planning for a new service, there are a number of important documents that will be needed. They include, but are not limited to:

- Memorandum of Association and by-laws (unless part of an existing organization, in which case the organization's current documentation should be reviewed to determine if any changes are required);
- Policy and procedures manual for board, program staff and volunteers; and
- Reporting forms, such as driver logs, incident reports.

A number of these documents were gathered from existing (and past) community-based transportation services. Copies are available by contacting Community Links. For the purposes of this resource, the table of contents from Le Transport de Clare's policy and procedures manual has been included, in order to provide a starting point for new services.

Thank you to Claredon Robicheau for his assistance.

**Le Transport de Clare
Policies & Procedures For Dispatchers and Drivers**

Table of Contents

ABOUT LE TRANSPORT DE CLARE
ABOUT VOLUNTEERS •
BLOOD TEST SCHEDULES•
CALL FORWARDING POLICY
CANCELLATIONS DUE TO WEATHER
CLASSIFICATION OF PASSENGERS
 FIRST TIME USERS
 INSTITUTIONAL CLIENTS
 OCCASIONAL USERS
 PRIORITY USERS
 REGULARLY SCHEDULED PASSENGERS
 SPECIAL TRIPS
CLIENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES
CONFIDENTIALITY
DISORDERLY OR UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT
DISPATCHER RESPONSIBILITIES
 DISPATCHER DUTIES
 ACCESSING THE DISPATCH BOOK
 ANSWERING CALLS & RECORDING MESSAGES
 BOOKING AND ROUTING DRIVES
 CLIENTS REQUIRING ASSISTANCE
 COMMENTS AREA OF DAILY DISPATCH SHEET
 DISPATCH EFFICIENCIES
 DRIVER ASSISTANCE
 HANDLING DELAYS

TEAM WORK

DO'S & DON'TS

DONATIONS

DRIVER RESPONSIBILITIES

DAILY DRIVER DUTIES

CELL PHONE USE AND CARE

CLIENT CONSIDERATIONS

COMMUNICATIONS

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS FOR CONTACT WITH BODY FLUIDS

VAN MAINTENANCE

EQUIPMENT FOR TRAVEL

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

SMOKING & SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY •

OTHER DOCUMENTS:

- Volunteers & Emergency Contact List
- Resource Directory
- Daily Driver's Report
- Significant Incident Report

APPENDIX C: Stand-Alone Resources

The two resources on the following pages are available for use by your community organization:

The first resource may be developed as a bookmark as a way to share SIP-T participants' learnings and highlight the steps in influencing public policy.

The second resource is for your organization or community group to post in your meeting place or distribute among organizational members. Space is provided for you to add the names and contact information for the government officials that you may need to be in touch with about issues of concern.

There is also space for your Community Links Board of Directors Representative for your area of the province.



Seniors Influencing Policy – Transportation

The keys to influencing policy...

- **Communication**
 - Plan time to share and network
 - Be conscious of language
 - Learn from the challenges others have faced
 - Don't underestimate the power of the media
- **Planning**
 - Timing can have a major effect
 - Carefully lay the groundwork and foundation of your work - this may take time
 - Be prepared – do your research
- **Being Involved**
 - Individuals, organizations and communities can have an impact on public policy
- **Building and Nurturing Relationships**
 - Be open to learn from others – it strengthens the work
 - Working together can lead to new joint initiatives
 - Maintain good working relations with government officials

The keys to influencing policy have been drawn from the learnings of SIP-T participants.

FRONT

Steps to Influence Public Policy

1. **Pick an Issue**
 - Understand what's happening with the issue
 - Do your research
 - Decide on your goal
2. **Find Partners & Allies**
 - Consider who is interested in this issue
 - What resources and skills can we offer each other
3. **Plan Your Action**
 - Decide who to lobby
 - Determine your short term goals
 - Decide what strategies you'll use
4. **Implement Your Plan**
 - Carry out your plan
 - Keep track of the tasks to influence the policy
5. **Evaluate Your Action**
 - Consider where you started and where you are now- what were the successes, the challenges, what was the outcome?

Increasing Rural Seniors Skills for Influencing Policy – Transportation is a Community Links project funded by The Public Health Agency of Canada.

Our partners for this project were:

- Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations
- Veterans Affairs Canada
- Seniors Secretariat
- Advisory Council on the Status of Women
- Nova Scotia Centre on Aging

BACK



**ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT AN ISSUE
THAT AFFECTS YOUR COMMUNITY ...
YOU CAN HAVE AN IMPACT!**

Know whom to contact

**Mayor/Warden:
Phone #**

**Municipal Councillor:
Phone #**

**Member of the Legislature (MLA):
Constituency Office:**

**Member of Parliament (MP):
Constituency Office:**

Community Links Board Representative:

Tips to Consider:

- **Be clear about the issue and know what is currently happening in regard to it.**
- **Find other organizations who are interested and willing to work with you.**
- **Determine who you need to talk to – is it a municipal, provincial or federal issue?**
- **Think about what will be most effective ways to let government and the community know about the issue.**
- **Participate in meetings where the issue will be discussed.**
- **Write letters – to appropriate officials, the local newspaper, etc.**
- **Give presentations regarding the issue to community groups.**
- **Follow-up – with thank you letters, more information, commitments made.**

APPENDIX D: Digby-Annapolis SIP-T Committee Proposal for Federal Support - Community Based Transportation

In its efforts to influence the Federal Government to reinstate federal funding to community based transportation programs, the Digby-Annapolis SIP-T Committee prepared a proposal to federal officials and candidates in the January 2006 Federal Election, accompanied by a cover letter.

Copies of these two documents are attached.

The Digby-Annapolis SIP-T Committee also distributed a survey/questionnaire in their area in order to assess the needs and attitudes of local residents regarding the issue of access to transportation.

A condensed sample of the survey is also attached.



*Trans County
Transportation
Society*

Nova Scotia Seniors Influencing Policy on Transportation

To: Mr. Greg Kerr (Mr. Robert Thibault, Mr. Arthur Bull)
From: Seniors Influencing Policy on Transportation - Digby-Annapolis Area
Re: Issue of Rural Transportation

January 11, 2006

We wish to draw your attention to the very important issue of the lack of adequate community based Transportation in rural Canada and in particular to its impact on seniors, persons with disabilities and the economically challenged.

The availability of affordable, accessible transportation is a huge issue for the rapidly aging population in rural Nova Scotia. It is also an issue of concern to persons with disabilities living in rural areas and to the economic prospects of younger people who wish to remain in rural areas. No government will be able to ensure the future of rural communities without addressing the issue of transportation.

Different levels of government have a responsibility to ensure that community based accessible transportation is available. In turn the community and its members have proved themselves willing to step forward and work with government on this issue. In Nova Scotia the provincial government is providing support. Municipal governments in many jurisdictions are also working with the community on this. The federal government, however, is not providing the support that is needed. This was not the case in the early 1990's when a grant program for the purchase of community based wheelchair accessible vehicles was available through the federal government. (See attached proposal.)

We would like to ask for a clear statement that you will support the reinstatement of the above mentioned program and other initiatives which will ensure that the transportation issues of rural Canada are seriously addressed.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Welch

Committee Chair, Box 1177 Westport NS BOV IHO carolwe@tartannet.ns.ca

cc: Community Links, Box 29103, Halifax, NS B3L 4T8

Trans County Transportation Society, 7 Faye Rd. Bridgetown NS BOS 1CO

admin.tcts@ns.sympatico.ca

Nova Scotia League for Equal Opportunities, nsleo@eastlink.ca

Le Transport de Clare, RR 1 box 175 Church Point NS BOW 1MO crobicheau@auracom.com

PROPOSAL

For: Federal Support for Community Based Transportation

From: Community Links' Seniors Influencing Policy on Transportation Committee- Digby-Annapolis Area Subcommittee

Objective: To reinstate a funding program offered from 1990-1995 by the Federal Government's Department of Transportation, which provided grants of \$25,000 to Community Based Transportation programs for the purchase of wheelchair accessible vehicles.

Principles Behind the Proposal:

- Transportation should be accessible equally to all citizens.
- Rural ways of life are important to Canadian society as a whole.
- People should be supported to remain independent in their own homes; especially seniors, persons with disabilities, and caregivers.
- Accessible rural transportation should be an integral part of community infrastructure.
- There should be support for community based transportation from all levels of government.

Background: The planned centralization of health, educational, commercial services in the past decade or more is having a profound impact on rural Canada and its citizens. This move to centralization has been supported by governments at all levels with little consideration for the impact it will have on rural citizens. This impact is particularly great for seniors, persons with disabilities, caregivers, and the economically disadvantaged.

These impacts include:

- People miss medical appointments due to travel costs, weather conditions and lack of accessible transportation. This in turn leads to increased health issues, which leads to greater long term costs for the medical system.
- Low-income seniors and others with mobility problems pay more than others for travel expenses from already limited budgets.
- Under-insured individuals who volunteer, formally or informally, to transport others to services are putting themselves at risk.
- Transportation services that meet the needs of mobility challenged individuals are not available in many rural areas.

History: The Federal Funding Program of 1990 - 1995 enabled the development of several community-based transportation services in Nova Scotia and elsewhere in Canada. Since then, some provincial funding has become available to such groups in Nova Scotia.

Benefits of reinstating the program:

- Community based transportation programs in Nova Scotia and elsewhere would be able to replace aging and unreliable vehicles.
- New transportation societies would be able to develop in areas not currently serviced.
- Funds currently being directed at vehicle maintenance and repair or for new vehicle purchase could be directed at hiring drivers and/or providing improved insurance coverage for volunteer drivers.
- Volunteers and staff could direct time and energy towards provision of service rather than to excessive amounts of fundraising.
- Improved and expanded service would lead to a much better quality of life for lonely and isolated seniors, disabled people and for the economically challenged in rural Canada.

Community Links SIP-T Project Interview/Questionnaire on Rural Transportation

The following is a condensed version of the questionnaire we used in conducting our research on rural transportation services. Included here are the results compiled from the 145 respondents of the survey:

An explanatory paragraph was inserted concerning the influence of rural transportation on “aging in place”.

1. Is transportation a concern in your area?
Yes 125 No 8 not sure 12
2. Should the Federal Government be involved in providing this service?
Yes 133 No 7 not sure 5

A statement here re transportation being an equal right of people in rural and urban areas.

3. Would you agree with these rights?
Yes 135 No 1 partly 4
4. Are you familiar with the term “accessible transportation”?
Yes 121 No 3 not sure 21
5. Had contact recently with articles and/or discussions on topic?
Yes 84 No 52
6. Familiar with the available service in your area?
Yes 91 No 28 a little 26
7. Should the service be:
 - a. Fully government supported 72
 - b. Partly government, partly community 60
 - c. Fully volunteer effort 3
 - d. No reply 10

A statement here regarding full access to transportation services including all people and all types of outings, and its influence on the general health of those involved.

8. Do you agree with this view?
Yes 129 Partly 7 no reply 9
9. Would you, with help, provide a letter of support?
Yes 91 No 9
10. Would you like to be kept informed?
Yes 95 No 9

What type of organizations and groups are you affiliated with? Various answers

People completing survey: Seniors-109 Younger and school age-20 Professional-16