

March 12, 2026

Municipality of the District of Yarmouth  
932 Highway 1  
Hebron, Nova Scotia B5A 2Z5



Dear Warden and Council,

We would like to express our appreciation for the opportunity to present to Council regarding our work as a Community Health Board in Yarmouth County and to highlight the need for an income policy, such as a Basic Income Guarantee (BIG).

**Income is one of the most important and comprehensive determinants of health.**

In Nova Scotia, according to the Canadian Income Survey, the official poverty rate in 2023 was 11.5% and the provisional estimate of poverty for 2024 shows an increase to 12.8% (based on the Market Basket Measure) - higher than the national poverty rate of 10.9% which is unchanged between 2023 and 2024<sup>1</sup>.

Although some federal and provincial supports and initiatives have been expanded, including Employment Insurance, the Canada Child Benefit and Canada Disability Benefit, there are still too many people in Canada who cannot meet their basic needs. Here in Nova Scotia, this includes a child poverty rate of 22.7% and in Yarmouth County at 27.5%.<sup>2</sup> That is more than 1 in 4 children.

People who live in Yarmouth County face economic hardships resulting from tariffs, advancements in artificial intelligence, climate impacts, inflation and other economic uncertainties. We need a solution that provides stability and security; a solution that is accessible and available when needed; a solution that helps to lift people out of poverty and prevents people from falling into poverty.

Poverty impacts our communities, and the costs of poverty are downloaded onto municipalities. Municipalities represent an important voice in social policy discussions at all levels: they are often on the front lines, working to ensure that residents and communities lead happy, healthy, sustainable, and productive lives.

Those with adequate income are able to spend money in their local economy, raise families, innovate, and contribute to their community.

Strong income policies will have a positive impact on the priority areas within our [Community Health Plan](#), which is informed by local community engagement and data. Community Health Boards (CHBs) across the province have partnered to create and curate resources connected to

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<sup>1</sup> [Nova Scotia Daily Stats - Canadian income survey: poverty, 2023 basket revision and 2024 provisional](#)

<sup>2</sup> [2025 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Nova Scotia - CCPA](#)

income and health which can be found [here](#). We have heard in recent engagement with our communities about the impact of poverty on their lives, health and communities.

The Yarmouth County Community Health Board strongly urges you to show your support for effective income-based policies by supporting a Basic Income Guarantee. The Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities along with 21 municipalities across Nova Scotia have passed resolutions to support a Basic Income Guarantee.

Our requests to council include:

1. That Warden & Council write a letter to Prime Minister Mark Carney, copying MP Chris d'Entremont, requesting they honour the FED-PROV BIG working group in PEI and begin talks to establish a similar working group with Nova Scotia.
2. That Warden & Council write a letter to Premier Tim Houston, copying MLA Nick Hilton, requesting that the province establish an all-party committee of the Nova Scotia legislature to examine the implementation of a basic income guarantee program for Nova Scotia. (A Framework)

We thank you for your time and consideration of our requests. The Community Health Board can provide letter templates and would respectfully appreciate being informed of Council's decisions regarding these requests.

Sincerely,

*Tony Dorrian, Co-Chair*  
Yarmouth County Community Health Board

*Heather MacDonald, Co-Chair*  
Yarmouth County Community Health Board