



Newsletter Contents

Dear Friends,

New Bedford High School

I hope this e-newsletter finds you well after a snowy winter.

Coyotes in Bedford-Birch Cove

The Legislature will be open again on March 31 following prorogation and a Speech from the Throne.

D250 Youth Engagement Trust

This will be the NDP's third Throne Speech since being elected, which may signal yet another change in direction for our provincial government.

Canada Games

The government will also bring in a budget at some point this spring. Over the past two years, the NDP has increased both the debt and the deficit of this province. Instead of making difficult choices immediately, it avoided taking responsibility for two years – and that means the cuts now will be deeper and longer than should have been necessary.

Aging with Disability and Dignity

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DrivewiseR Program

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Halifax North West Trails Association

I was disappointed to see that the government has decided to cancel the Reading Recovery program in this province. Even if boards wish to keep the program – and have the money to pay for it – the province has ruled they will not be allowed to keep it. Meanwhile, the province has not indicated which program will replace Reading Recovery **because the program hasn't even been created yet.**

Vote for the Bay of Fundy!

Evidence shows that children who do not read at grade level by grade 3 are not likely to complete high school. We know the Reading Recovery program works; our children should not be guinea pigs for a program that has no record behind it.

Order of Nova Scotia Nominations

Cuts may be necessary, but cutting without regard for the primary goals of a department – like literacy – is wrong-headed.

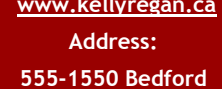
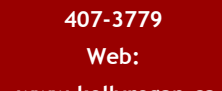
CFIB Summer Intern

Similarly, the province has decided the government should get back into the paving business again – after it was abandoned as too expensive twenty years ago. The province has not presented its business case to us, nor has it listened to existing paving companies who have told them how to lower their costs. The government should not be competing with private companies for business. Generally, private business can work cheaper than government. Why does this government think it's different?

Census Jobs

Finally, I would like to thank the many constituents who have taken the time to let me know what's on their minds. It's a privilege to represent you in the House, and I thank you for placing your faith in me.

Find me on



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Sincerely,



Behind the wheel for efficiency training with DrivewiseR (February 4, 2011)



Discussing women in politics with News 95.7's Jordi Morgan (February 24, 2011)



Presenting Canada Games medals for Cross Country Skiing at Martock (February 26, 2011)

New Bedford High School Update

By now most of you are aware of the concerns surrounding the plans for the new Bedford high school—many of you have taken time to share your views with me. In January, I wrote letters to Education Minister Ramona Jennex and Halifax Regional School Board Superintendent Carole Olsen to express these concerns.

I have received no response from Carole Olsen as yet.

Ramona Jennex responded to me at the end of February. She informed me that the Department of Education bases its design plans on student population projections established by the local school board. The Minister indicated the Department of Education has not received any revised population projections from Halifax Regional School Board.

The Minister said the Department would be meeting with officials from the school to discuss the design plans. And she says she respects the board's ability to determine appropriate enrolment numbers for the school. (You can read her [full response here.](#))

In my view, DoE needs to take a more proactive approach to ensuring that the high school is built to accommodate student population growth—growth we all know is coming because we see its effects already.

Thank you for writing to me about your concerns with the school as proposed; I'll keep you informed of any progress when/if that happens.

Coyote Sightings around Bedford-Birch Cove

Over the last couple months there have been a number of coyote sightings throughout urban HRM—including some in Bedford-Birch Cove. I'd like to thank those of you who contacted the Department of Natural Resource and my office to report sightings and to express concerns about this issue.

I have been in contact with the Wildlife sector of the Department of Natural Resources. They confirmed increased reports of coyote sightings in the Bedford-Birch Cove area. If DNR receives reports of coyotes exhibiting aggressive or abnormal behaviour (i.e. if they are devoid of fear toward humans or appear during daylight) DNR will send in trappers to catch those coyotes. The behaviour reported was determined to be neither aggressive or abnormal by DNR; therefore, trappers were not sent to deal with the animals.

To report sightings, please contact DNR at 1-800-565-2224.

Please consult the DNR website to learn about coyotes and how to protect yourself should you encounter one. Access the website [here.](#)

Democracy 250 Youth Engagement Legacy Trust

The Democracy 250 Youth Engagement Legacy Trust provides monetary assistance to eligible non-profit organizations, teachers and students that engage and educate youth about democracy, civic involvement and Nova Scotia's contributions to Canada's democratic evolution.

Eligible organizations include (but are not limited to): Royal Canadian Legion youth programs, Air, Army and Sea Cadets, Scouts, Girl Guides, Boys and Girls Clubs, teachers and students specifically sponsored by the Nova Scotia Social Studies Teachers' Association, and other organizations dedicated to youth engagement.

Applications can be made throughout the year. A decision will be sent to applicants 60 days, at the latest, after the trust receives the application. For more information on this project, please contact my office.

Bedford-Birch Cove Participants in the Canada Games

By all measures, the Canada Games were a tremendous success and will leave a great legacy for our city and province. Congratulations on a superb job to the organizers and volunteers who had a role in the success of the 2011 Halifax Canada Games.

I'd also like to give a special salute to all the athletes and coaches from our community who represented Bedford-Birch Cove and the province so well.

I was pleased to give out medals for the Cross Country Ski Relay at Martock and I enjoyed taking in some other festivities, including the Boxing Finals and the Closing Ceremonies.

Congratulations to all of you for a terrific two weeks!

Aging with Disability and Dignity in Nova Scotia

The Independent Living Nova Scotia Association recently undertook a research study on the changing needs of mature Nova Scotians living with disabilities. After releasing a report on that study, the ILNS also released "Aging with Disability and Dignity in Nova Scotia: A Resource Guide for Mature Nova Scotians with Disabilities."

If you are interested in reading this useful resource guide, please [email](#) or call (407-3777) my office. We have paper copies available to borrow or electronic copies to distribute.

DrivewiseR Program

DrivewiseR is a fuel efficiency program delivered by Clean Nova Scotia and funded by Conserve Nova Scotia. The program teaches Nova Scotians how to drive from point A to point B using the least amount of fuel possible—reducing our gas bills and our carbon footprints!

Early in February, I participated in DrivewiseR's in-car training session. From this session, I learned driving tips that will help reduce my annual fuel consumption by 7%—that's a 200kg reduction in CO2 emissions and \$90 in savings!

DrivewiseR offers a range of programs aimed at reducing emissions and saving money on gas, including an idle-free campaign, presentations and workshops for schools, businesses and community groups.

DrivewiseR is a worthwhile way for all of us to learn what we can do to help the environment and save some money in the process. To learn more about DrivewiseR's programs, please visit their website [here.](#)

Home Heating Assistance - Applications Still Available

The 2010/11 Heating Assistance Rebate Program remains open to applicants. Low and mid-income Nova Scotians who pay directly to heat their homes are eligible to apply for this rebate. Applications will be accepted until March 31st, 2011.

In addition, applications for the Good Neighbour Energy Fund—a program administered by the Salvation Army—are currently available. Nova Scotians who are in an extreme emergency heating situation are eligible to apply to receive one-time assistance to pay for the primary source of heat in a family unit. The program runs from January to April.

If you require more details on the Heating Assistance Rebate Program and the Good Neighbour Energy Fund, or would like an application, please contact my office.

Halifax North West Trails Association - 2011 AGM

The Halifax North West Trails Association will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Sunday, April 3rd at 2:30pm in the Keshan Goodman Library on Lacewood Drive.

The Association is currently looking for new board members, and also for volunteers interested in leading trails and hikes. If you are interested please email Bob McDonald (info@halifaxtrails.ca) by March 25th. For more information about the Association please visit www.halifaxnorthwesttrails.ca.

Vote for the Bay of Fundy as New7Wonders of the World

As many of you know, the Bay of Fundy is in the running to be named one of the seven new wonders of the world! The Bay of Fundy is competing against 27 other natural wonders; it's Canada's only candidate in the contest. Please show your support for this striking and extraordinary piece of nature by voting [online here!](#)

Order of Nova Scotia - 2011 Nominations

The deadline to submit nominations for the 2011 Order of Nova Scotia is fast approaching. Nominations will be accepted until Friday, March 18.

The Order of Nova Scotia has been awarded since 2001 and is the highest honour bestowed upon Nova Scotians by the province. It recognizes Nova Scotians for outstanding contributions and achievements that bring honour and prestige to themselves and the province.

Find out more by [clicking here.](#)

CFIB Summer Intern Program

Are you a Nova Scotian student interested in public policy, small business and entrepreneurship? If so, I would encourage you to apply as a summer intern with the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

For more details, please contact CFIB at msns@cfib.ca or 420-1997.

Census Jobs 2011

Statistics Canada is now hiring crew leaders and enumerators for the 2011 Census. Jobs are available from March to the end of July 2011. Start dates for these jobs vary, depending on the assignment.

Applicants must be 18 years or older, a Canadian citizen or eligible to work in Canada, and able to commit to at least 20 hours a week including days, evenings, weekends and holidays.

If you are interested in applying, call Statistics Canada at 1-866-773-2011 or 1-800-363-7629.

If you would like to be removed from Kelly's email list, please click [unsubscribe](#) to send an email to her. You will be removed from the list immediately.