

Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan

Subject: FW: Introducing the New Regional Operations Team

From: Mitton, Andrew L <Andrew.Mitton@novascotia.ca>

Sent: August 30, 2025 9:46 AM

Subject: Introducing the New Regional Operations Team

Dear colleagues,

I am very pleased to officially welcome the members of our new Regional Operations Team. This team brings an impressive combination of expertise, leadership, and strong community roots that will significantly enhance our ability to support responders, municipalities, and partners across Nova Scotia.

Below is a closer look at each member of the team and the experience they bring to their new roles.

Cape Breton – Region 1

Bruce MacDonald – Regional Operations Manager

Bruce brings a deep understanding of emergency management and strong regional insight to his new role. He previously served as the EMO Coordinator for the Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM), where he led emergency planning, preparedness, and coordination efforts for the region. Bruce's collaborative approach and ability to navigate complex incidents have earned him a strong reputation among both municipal and provincial partners. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Emergency Management from Cape Breton University and brings with him years of hands-on experience in municipal emergency response and planning.

David Young – Regional Outreach Officer

David joins us with more than 20 years of experience in wildfire and natural hazard response with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), where he served as a Fire Crew Leader. His leadership and operational skills were vital in managing frontline response during some of the province's most challenging wildfire seasons. David is also an instructor with the Canadian Safety Council and a certified Fire Service Instructor, underscoring his commitment to safety and training. Deeply rooted in his community, David brings a grassroots perspective that will help strengthen local outreach and emergency preparedness across the region.

Antigonish – Region 2

Shaun MacLaughlin – Regional Operations Manager

Shaun brings a unique operational and health-based perspective to emergency management, having worked for many years as a paramedic with Emergency Health Services (EHS). In his most recent role, he served as an Emergency Preparedness Special Operations Paramedic, where he contributed to planning and deploying medical responses to large-scale and complex incidents. Shaun is known for his calm

leadership under pressure and his ability to build relationships across agencies. He holds a diploma in Emergency Management and is deeply committed to integrating emergency health services into broader preparedness efforts.

Emily Clegg – Regional Outreach Officer

Emily brings a wealth of experience in government relations, economic development, and public engagement. Most recently, she worked as a Business Development Officer with the Department of Agriculture, where she supported regional programs and liaised with stakeholders across rural communities. Her strong background in communication and coordination will serve her well in engaging municipalities, NGOs, and other partners. Emily holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Guelph, and her cross-sector experience will bring valuable insight into outreach strategies and collaborative planning.

Truro – Region 3

Shawn Reynolds – Regional Operations Manager (Starting later in September)

Shawn is a seasoned public safety leader with over two decades of policing experience. He comes to us from the RCMP, where he served as a commanding officer leading an integrated unit made up of officers from four different law enforcement agencies. In his most recent role, he oversaw the RCMP's Emergency Management Section and led provincial programs related to preparedness, planning, and interagency coordination. He also served as the primary liaison for Ground Search and Rescue teams across the province. Shawn's leadership, interagency knowledge, and strategic planning skills will be a major asset to Region 3 and the province overall.

Kaitlyn Power – Regional Outreach Officer

Kaitlyn brings a strong background in adult education, psychology, and community-based service delivery. Kaitlyn previously worked as a Case Manager with Pictou Landing First Nation, where she supported families and coordinated service access, often in high-stress or urgent circumstances. Her work has focused on community development, outreach, and advocacy—skills that translate seamlessly into emergency preparedness, public education, and stakeholder engagement.

Central – Region 4

Mike Dickie – Regional Operations Manager

Mike brings extensive experience in healthcare emergency preparedness. He most recently served as the Manager of Emergency Preparedness with Nova Scotia Health, where he oversaw planning and response for healthcare facilities across the province. Mike's expertise spans from risk assessments and continuity planning to leading complex response operations during health emergencies. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Security and Emergency Management from the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) and a Business Continuity designation from the Disaster Recovery Institute. Mike's methodical approach and leadership will be instrumental in building regional resilience in Central Nova.

Erica Brook – Regional Outreach Officer

Erica is a dynamic public engagement and environmental planning specialist. In her role as a Public Health Engagement Specialist, she led numerous initiatives focused on community-based planning, with a particular emphasis on climate adaptation and mitigation. Erica has worked closely with

municipalities to develop and communicate plans that address both public health and environmental risks. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Community Design and Environmental Planning from Dalhousie University. Her ability to communicate complex information and engage diverse audiences will be essential to advancing outreach across the region.

Valley – Region 5

Sara Ede – Regional Operations Manager

Sara brings a robust combination of government, non-profit, and field-level experience to her role. She most recently worked as an Emergency Management Consultant with Nova Scotia Health, where she supported regional planning, exercised readiness, and developed policy. Before that, she served as the Red Cross Regional Emergency Management Coordinator, overseeing response operations and volunteer coordination during emergencies. Sara holds a diploma in Emergency Management from NSCC and a BA with a concentration in Psychology. Her well-rounded background and strong leadership skills make her ideally suited to support both local partners and provincial goals. Sara will be hiring a Regional Outreach Officer in the coming weeks.

South Shore – Region 6

Ryan Doherty – Regional Operations Manager

Ryan transitions into this permanent role after serving in an acting capacity for Region 1 over the past year. He brings solid experience from the Department's Training and Exercising Branch and previously worked as an Emergency Management Advisor with Nova Scotia Health. Ryan is known for his calm demeanor, thorough planning, and operational know-how. He holds a diploma in Emergency Management from NSCC and a BA from Saint Mary's University. His familiarity with both provincial systems and frontline operations positions him well to lead the South Shore region. Ryan will also be hiring a Regional Outreach Officer in Liverpool in the coming weeks.

David Rockwood – Fire and GSAR Liaison

David comes to the team from the Department of Natural Resources, where he built a strong background in wildfire operations. In his new role, he will serve as the dedicated Fire and GSAR Liaison, strengthening collaboration between DEM, volunteer fire departments, and the GSAR community. David has already stepped into his role at the Long Lake fire, where he is working closely with VFDs managing the Structure Protection Branch. His operational knowledge and strong relationships with the fire service and GSAR community will be invaluable in advancing coordination and supporting partners across the province.

As you can see, this division is exceptionally well-positioned to provide strong leadership, build relationships, and deliver operational excellence across Nova Scotia. The combined knowledge and experience of this team will enhance our capacity to respond to emergencies, strengthen community resilience, and support our municipal and agency partners.

Please join me in giving Bruce, David, Shaun, Emily, Shawn, Kaitlyn, Mike, Erica, Sara, and Ryan a very warm welcome to the team. I am confident that their leadership and dedication will have a significant and lasting impact across the province.

Our Regional Operations staff will be reaching out to each of you directly once things settle down a bit with the fire activity and they have a chance to fully transition into their new roles.

Sincerely,
Andrew

Andrew Mitton
Director, Regional Operations
Department of Emergency Management
Cell :9026700481
Email: Andrew.Mitton@novascotia.ca

Verified virus free by MessageLabs