

Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan

Subject: FW: New Program Announcement

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Sent: Monday, December 22, 2025 12:48:43 PM

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Subject: New Program Announcement

Dear CAO,

I am writing to make you aware of a new program announced today that will help develop Nova Scotia's natural gas potential and help produce natural gas here in the province. It's called the Subsurface Energy Research and Development Investment Program. It has potential for direct benefits for your municipality.

This program will help kick start the province's onshore natural gas industry after a decade of inaction and inactivity. Developing our own resources to fuel our own energy needs will help combat the rising cost of heat and power and create good-paying jobs here at home.

The Province is engaging Dalhousie University to oversee the program to understand how to develop onshore natural gas safely. The university will lead research efforts to better understand the nature and location of the resource and to track and develop guidelines to ensure exploration and development are done responsibly. The university will also lead communication with the public before research starts and manage ongoing stakeholder engagement.

If a project in this program results in revenues to the Province through equity stakes, a portion would be invested in the nearest municipalities. While it is too soon to say where projects might be located, we do know the areas of the province where natural gas development might be possible and your municipality is located near one of them.

Please see more information in the news release: <https://news.novascotia.ca/en/2025/12/22/new-program-develop-local-fuel-lower-power-rates>

While we work out final details with the university, please feel free to contact the Department of Energy with questions. Adam MacDonald, Director of Subsurface Energy Development, is happy to walk you through the program's objectives and how it could potentially support your community. You can reach him at Adam.MacDonald@novascotia.ca or 902-499-2576.

Yours truly,
Karen

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