

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

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February 12, 2026

The Honourable Tim Houston
Premier of Nova Scotia
Office of the Premier
7th Floor, One Government Place
1700 Granville Street
Halifax, NS B3J 1X5

Dear Premier Houston,

RE: Letter of support for Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty

On behalf of the Municipality of the County of Antigonish, I am writing to express our support for the concerns raised by the Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty (ACEP) regarding the need to increase social assistance and disability support rates in Nova Scotia.

Council recognizes the important work being done by ACEP and its member organizations in supporting individuals and families across Antigonish and Guysborough Counties. We are aware of the growing pressures facing residents as costs for housing, food, energy, and other essential needs continue to rise. Many individuals and families in our communities rely on social assistance and disability benefits to meet their basic daily needs.

While we acknowledge the announced 1.6% increase to social assistance and disability rates for 2026, Council shares the concern that this adjustment does not keep pace with inflation or the rising cost of living. As outlined in ACEP's letter, current benefit levels remain below established poverty thresholds, including the Market Basket Measure. Without more substantial increases, many individuals and families will continue to experience significant financial hardship.

The Municipality supports ACEP's call for a meaningful increase to social assistance and disability support rates, with the goal of ensuring that Nova Scotians are able to meet their basic needs and live with dignity. Addressing poverty strengthens not only individuals and families, but also the overall health and resilience of our communities.

We respectfully encourage your government to carefully consider these concerns and to engage in further discussion with community partners, including ACEP, to identify solutions that better support vulnerable Nova Scotians.

Sincerely,



Warden Nicholas MacInnis
Municipality of the County of Antigonish

CC: all Nova Scotia Municipalities
