



## Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Box 296, 8296 Highway #7, Sherbrooke, NS B0J 3C0

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April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

The Honorable Tim Houston  
Premier of Nova Scotia  
Office of the Premier  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, One Government  
1700 Granville Street  
Halifax, NS B3J 1X5

Dear Premier Houston,

**RE: Letter of Support for Antigonish Coalition to End Poverty**

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On behalf of the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's, 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.

We are increasingly aware of the growing pressures facing residents, as the costs of 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. Without more substantial increases, many individuals and families will continue to experience significant financial hardship.

The Municipality of the District of St. Mary's 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Fuller", is written over a circular stamp.

Warden James Fuller  
Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Cc: MLA Greg Morrow, all Nova Scotia Municipalities