

**Notice of Town of Pictou
Committee of Council Meeting
Council Chambers – CN Station
71 Front Street, Pictou
Tuesday, April 7, 2026**

The public can access the meeting via the Town of Pictou Facebook Page beginning at 6:30 pm or attend in person.

Agenda

1. Public Session – Audit Committee (5:45 pm)
2. Public Session – Call to Order (6:30 pm)
3. Changes/Approval of Agenda
4. Proclamations & Acknowledgements
 - a. Tartan Day
5. Presentations
6. Departmental Reports
 - a. Fire Department
 - b. RCMP
 - c. Community Development
 - d. Public Works
 - e. Parks & Recreation
 - f. Variance
7. Appointment Committees
8. Reports/Recommendations from Private Session
9. Recommendations
 - a. 2025-26 Operating Budget
 - b. Pre-Approval of Debenture Issuance
 - c. Growing Canada's Community Canopies (GCCC) – Application
 - d. Parks and Recreation Committee – Appointment
 - e. Business Advisory Committee – Appointment
10. Discussions
 - a. Spring Clean Up – April
11. Correspondence
12. Public Comments/Questions
13. Adjournment

Overview of Town of Pictou Meetings

(A General Description of Council and Committee Meetings)

Committee of Council

- Council meets in committee to raise, discuss and debate matters of interest to the Town.
- Members of Council request review and debate staff reports during committee meetings.
- Committee meetings are often viewed as “working sessions”.
- Committee members make motions of recommendation to Council (committee does not approve Town business).
- Agendas can be changed during a Committee Meeting.

Regular Council

- Convened to address standing agenda items such as the approval of minutes.
- Council entertains recommendations made by Council Committees.
- Agendas can be changed during a regular Council meeting.

Special Council

- Convened for Council to address specific items of business.
- The publicized agenda for a Special Council meeting cannot be changed.

Public Hearings

- Convened for members of Council to hear reports and opinions of the general public, related parties and staff on specifically identified agenda items.
- Public Hearing agendas cannot be changed.
- Council does not debate matters before them during a public hearing.

Closed/Private Sessions of All Meetings

- Council or Committee members are only permitted to retire to private session to consider: acquisition, sale, lease and security of municipal property; setting minimum price at a tax sale; personnel matters; labour relations; contract negotiations; litigation or potential litigation; legal advice eligible for solicitor – client privilege, or public security.
- Council or Committee is to make a public record noting the reason for a private session, and excluding a procedural matter, Council or Committee is not permitted to make a decision in closed/private session.

PICTOU FIRE CHIEF REPORT

March 2026

Calls for the Period

- At the time of this report, the Department responded to 9 calls for service during the month of January, including a commercial fire alarm activation, a residential fire alarm, an EHS assist, a propane leak, a MVA, a power pole on fire, an illegal burn (back yard fire), heating equipment malfunction and a carbon monoxide alarm.

Training

- For the month of March, the department spent time on ladders and roof operations, ventilation techniques, as well as operating our equipment to ensure proper training for members.
- The Chief and Deputy Chief attended a training session for fire investigation for assistants to the Fire Marshall.

Fire Fighting Equipment & Apparatus

- SCBA maintenance: Weekly checks continue, and all units are operating well.
- We have moved to a Saturday morning maintenance session occurring twice a month, this leaves us with three training sessions per month as opposed to two. Continuing.
- Crews are keeping the equipment and gear clean and making sure it is ready to use.
- All vehicles are in good repair and ready for service.

Department News

- The Department has a new Facebook page, Pictou Fire and Rescue, please check it out and follow us. Site will include Pictou Fire events, public service messages and pictures of our Department.
- In 2025, the Department hosted the Rolling Barrage, a group of motorcycle riders made up of service veterans, emergency first responders and their friends and families who ride across Canada raising funds and awareness for mental health injuries for veterans and first responders. They were very impressed with the hospitality extended to them and they have asked to make this a stop on their 2026 tour. This year will be their 10th anniversary and will involve an even larger group riding across the country. We are honored to host them again this year, on August 4. More info to follow.

Building Maintenance

- We are currently doing inspections under health and safety regulations and are compiling a list of things that need to be addressed. Ongoing.
- Security cameras have been installed on the exterior of the building.
- We have begun a spring cleaning of the station, removing some stuff that has been around for a long time and likely won't be used by us. Some old gear is out of date but can be used by some other departments who may not have the means to purchase new gear. We have been speaking with a department that may take our outdated gear. We are also repurposing some of our storage areas in the building to allow us to better organize our supplies/inventory which in turn may give us more room on the main apparatus floor.



MONTHLY REPORT: March 2026



RCMP MONTHLY REPORT

March 2026

Pictou District RCMP's Primary focus during this fiscal year is Maintaining Public Confidence, Road Safety & Crime Reduction. Strategic initiatives & goals are part of our Annual Performance Plan (APP)

CRIME REDUCTION AND ROAD SAFETY

File: 2026300039 (Occurred just on the outskirts of Town)

On March 6, members of the Pictou County District RCMP were conducting a check stop on Highway 6 just outside of Pictou in the community of Haliburton. A male driver came through the check stop after leaving a residence in Pictou. The driver failed a roadside screening test for alcohol and was arrested for impaired operation. The male was transported to Pictou Detachment where he refused to provide samples of his breath. The male was charged for impaired operation and refusal to comply with demand. The male was also issued Summary Offence Tickets for driving without a valid licence, driving contrary to conditions and illegally possessing liquor.

File: 2026315373 (Pine Tree Rd, Pictou)

On March 10, members of the Pictou County District RCMP were conducting a check stop on Pine Tree Road in Pictou. A female driver was found to be driving while suspended and without insurance. While attempting to issue the driver summary offence tickets she fled from members towards Division Road. Members did not pursue the vehicle in the interest of public safety. Members located the female in Central Caribou shortly after and safely brought her into custody. The female is facing charges of obstruction of a Peace Officer and flight from police. The female was also issued Summary Offence Tickets for driving while suspended and driving without insurance.

File: 2026342933 (Weaver Rd, Pictou)

On March 16, a member of the Pictou County District RCMP was conducting routine traffic enforcement in Pictou when they located a vehicle driving without registration. Upon conducting a traffic stop at the Tim Hortons on Weaver Road, it was determined the male driver was prohibited from driving Canada-wide. The male was arrested for driving while prohibited and issued 3 Summary Offence Tickets for driving without valid registration, driving without insurance and driving without a valid inspection sticker. The vehicle was seized and impounded.



Pictou District RCMP

responded to a total of 76 calls for service as compared to the same time period in 2025 which recorded 104 calls for service.

Push Up Challenge:

Team 1 members each did 2000 push ups during the month of February and raised \$815 for the Mental Health Association of Nova Scotia.



Human Resources:

Cst. Deron Peach recently was promoted from a Pictou Town Constable position to a Stellarton Corporal position. His position will be filled by a Cadet that graduates from Depot on May 4.



Type of Occurrence	# 2025	# 2026	Remarks
911 Act	5	3	Feb 19-March 19
Animal Calls	0	1	
Assault	3	1	
Assistance to General Public	1	2	
Assistance to Other Agencies	6	0	
Break & Enter	4	0	
Checkpoints	0	4	
Child Welfare/Family Relations	1	0	
Controlled Drugs and Substances Act	2	0	
Crime Prevention	0	2	
Disturbing the Peace	2	2	
Fail to Comply	6	3	
False Alarms	4	3	
Fraud	1	0	
Harassment	5	2	
Impaired	1	1	
Liquor Act	0	0	
Lost and Found	4	0	
Mental Health Act	4	5	
Mischief	6	2	
Moving/Non Moving Traffic	6	11	
Municipal By-Laws	1	0	
Offender Management Checks	5	2	
Other Criminal Code	6	4	
Parking Offences	1	1	
Suspicious Person/Vehicle	1	2	
Theft	9	7	
Theft from motor vehicle	0	0	
Traffic Collisions	3	8	
Uttering Threats	2	2	
Wellbeing Checks	5	3	
Information	1	0	
Coroner's Act – Sudden Death	2	0	
Trespass	1	1	
Other Files	6	4	
Total	104	76	February 19 – March 19 2025/2026



Community Development

MONTHLY REPORT

MARCH 2026

Community Infrastructure and Neighborhood Revitalization *Developing and improving community facilities and spaces for social interaction, leisure activities and environmental conservation; fostering commercial and neighborhood revitalization initiatives.*

Waterfront, Marina & Placemaking:

- Marina Branding, Naming and Visual Identity Development Project – the RFP was awarded to Vibe Creative Group; the first meeting and creative session took place on March 26 to develop the brand strategy
- Marina – preliminary work on operational plans (booking software, fees and small craft docking systems)
- Expression of Interest – seasonal leasing opportunity for two locations on the Pictou Waterfront; submissions were reviewed; there is a new food service vendor confirmed for the Love Local Vendor Village; secondary location at the lot at the end of the curling rink will be activated with placemaking features that will be programmed by 3 different outside entities
- St Andrews Street – contractor has been hired to install a stone and metal beatification feature with greening to this site
- Music and event program planning for the season; begun booking performers

Economic Development *Advancing the implementation strategy for Pictou's Waterfront Development Plan and other strategic business initiatives; supporting entrepreneurship and innovation.*

- Pictou Business Mixer took place on March 5; organized by the Pictou Business Advisory Committee; very well attended.
- Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Survey – 15 responses received; highlights include: mostly weekend OHV travel, later day visits for dining, positive feedback, respectful drivers and suggestion to develop this further (promotion)
- Pictou Business Advisory Committee met March 3; recommendation from Committee to re-instate the Pictou Façade Improvement Program that the Town administered for three years (2017-2019); see briefing note

Social Inclusion and Cultural Enrichment *Encouraging diversity and social inclusion; preserving and promoting cultural heritage and artistic expression through cultural events and initiatives.*

- Multiple meetings with Pictou Farmers Market organizers regarding planning for 2026

Marketing & Communications *Identify opportunities to profile the Town externally; develop and review internal communications ensuring consistent messaging.*

- Cruise – 4 ships scheduled for fall; 2 new companies; met with Transport Canada on requirements and options for tender operations
- Social Media – ongoing; including a social media spring/summer campaign on Discover Pictou page
- Website – continuous updating of the Town of Pictou website; created a March Break Activities page
- Saltscapes Expo – planning for exhibit design for the Town of Pictou this year; 3 day event in Halifax; Partner organizations and businesses from Pictou will be assisting
- Three ad buys – Saltscapes Magazine (spring/summer issue), Sunrise Trail Magazine and Northumberland Shore Guide

- Participation in a new map project for Pictou County being developed by DEANS

Community Engagement and Participation *Engaging the community in decision-making processes; ensuring transparency and accountability in delivery of services and initiatives; foster creativity and a sense of identity within the community*

- Deadline for grants closed March 31; 23 applications received to date (as of March 24); met with multiple organizations prior to submission

Organizational and Professional Development

- Attended the “Planting Seeds of Change” session hosted by Creative Pictou County; the goal of the session was to connect with attendees and leave with actionable steps to affect change in our community
- Attended an online session hosted by Downtowns Atlantic focused on how Downtown Moncton Centre-ville built its DAC Award-winning Enviro Team, resulting in a 50% reduction in cleanliness-related complaints
- Worked on operational budget for community development

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Young, Community Development Officer

Superintendent of Public Works – April 2026

Capital:

- Broidy Park, Dwyer Construction took over as new contractor, completion expected in March
- Splash Pad Tender awarded to Dirt Road Contracting, project started in October, May completion, work resumed in March
- Market wharf ongoing
- Waste Water Treatment Plant SBR #3 aerator replacement tender out
- Preparing tender for capital projects

Utilities:

- Hydrant replacement remaining – Creighton (spring 2026) and Strathcona Place (on hold at NSHA request).

Roads and Sidewalk:

- Salting/plowing streets as needed
- West River Road streets lights installed

Public Works:

- Working on a digitization program for old Public Works files/drawings
- Working on continuing with existing GIS database and creating an asset assessment program. Infrastructure report to be updated as needed



RECREATION AND PARKS MONTHLY REPORT

March 2026

Facilities and Parks: Improve the quality of facilities

- Trails – Replaced outdated signage on road sections of the Trans Canada Trail; new signs featured the organization’s updated branding
- Pool – Worked with YMCA and NSCC staff to facilitate minor building repairs
- Broidy Park Community Centre
 - interior painting completed
 - Submitted final funding report to Nova Scotia Department of Communities Culture and Heritage; \$150,000 was secured for the project through the Recreation Facility Development program

Promotion and Communication

- Partnering with Pictou Library to host a Recreation Table Talk April 7 at 2:30 pm; members of the public are invited to learn about recreation programming and projects and to provide input to the strategic planning process
- Contributed to planning meeting with Vibe Creative Group for new town branding program that will include specific Recreation and Parks branding

Volunteer Development: Facilitate effectiveness of volunteer groups

- Planning for 2026 volunteer appreciation event – to be held April 22
- Seeking photos of volunteer groups, events and individuals to add to the annual slideshow presented at the Volunteer Week reception; groups are encouraged to send photos by email to the Recreation Manager by April 7

Participation for All: Increase participation, accessibility, decrease financial barriers.

- All Town of Pictou events during Frost Fest were free to attend and welcomed over 600 attendees across all events
- Walk and Roll continues to increase with three new participants joining in March; the program is free and held every Tuesday afternoon from 1-2pm at the Pictou Legion
- Organizing a new “Learn to Play” Pickleball clinic at McCulloch Education Centre; will be open to all ages; details to come
- March Break Photo Contest closed March 20; tThanks to Maritime Play Centre for sponsoring the prize, a 1 hour session at Elite 24/7 Golf in Pictou
- Spring sessions of Yoga began March 13 (Chair Yoga) and 17 (Replenishing Yoga); participants can join at any point in the session, and fees will be prorated the remaining weeks

Municipal Physical Activity Leader

- Winter hike series ended with a final hike on the Jitney Trail on March 18; now planning for a spring series with the Pictou County Hike Club; Join the Facebook Group for information on all upcoming activities: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1424681206334941>
- Active After School program runs four days per week at three schools: Mondays and Thursdays at McCulloch Education Centre; Tuesdays at Salt Springs; Wednesdays at Frank H. MacDonald Academy; a free program for youth in Grades 4, 5, and 6, with a focus on physical activity
- Planning continues on the Pictou County Trail Summit

Professional Development

- Attended Park Managers Institute Conference provided by Florida Recreation and Parks Association

Committee of Council - Finance Update Apr 7th, 2026

Operations – Town

This variance report shows forecasted revenues and expenses. This is based on 11 months of actual results (Apr-Feb). We lag a month behind to allow for invoices to be received and processed from the preceding month.

Revenue

Sales of Service (\$94k deficit)

- The YMCA taking over the pool will reduce revenue/expenses for the pool by \$123k
- Less Sweeping than expected in the fall -\$33k
- New contract with Westville to sell accounting services for \$25k

Other Transfers (\$65k surplus)

- \$42k Provincial grant to produce VR marketing material (Offsetting Expense)

Expenses

General Government (\$83k deficit)

- Unexpected \$36k in short term interest costs due to grant timing
- High repairs costs for failing heating system at Admin bldg. \$14k
- Enviro Coordinator mostly paid through offsetting grant

Protective Services (\$189k deficit)

- \$85k adjustment to RCMP expenses for prior fiscal year.
- RCMP at 6.1 FTE compared to 5.5 budgeted.

Environmental Dev Services (\$164k deficit)

- \$37k Provincial grant to produce VR marketing material (Offsetting Expense)
- \$25k was spent expecting beautification grant but the program was canceled
- \$82k spent on entertainment for the waterfront that I missed budgeting

Recreation Cultural Services (\$45k surplus)

- The YMCA taking over the pool will reduce revenue/expenses for the pool by \$123k

Transfers

Tranfers to own funds

- Capital from revenue is expected to be \$300k under budget due to favourable tenders.
- Using \$140k from sale of assets to fund capital this instead of operating funds.

I am expecting that we will be in line with budget this year. This is mainly due to reducing capital from operating; and higher RCMP costs than expected. Also, unbudgeted expenses programming the event site this summer.

David Nicholson

Manager of Finance

Town of Pictou

TOWN OF PICTOU

Non-Consolidated Schedule of Operating Fund
(Unaudited - Preliminary - Draft only)

28-Feb	11 Mos. 25-26 Actual	11 Mos. 25-26 Budget	11 Mos. 25-26 Variance
Revenues			
Taxes	\$ 6,437,915	\$ 6,425,915	\$ 12,000
Grants in lieu of taxes	425,576	425,576	-
Deed Transfer Tax	161,297	183,297	(22,000)
Sales of services	158,090	252,090	(94,000)
Revenue from own sources	508,254	533,254	(25,000)
Unconditional transfers from other governments	421,773	421,773	-
Other transfers	71,206	6,206	65,000
	8,184,111	8,248,111	(64,000)
Expenses			
General government services	1,216,629	1,133,629	(83,000)
Protective services	2,048,181	1,859,181	(189,000)
Transportation services	1,347,038	1,262,038	(85,000)
Environmental health services	803,560	823,560	20,000
Public health and welfare services	41,110	48,110	7,000
Environmental development services	327,585	163,585	(164,000)
Recreation, cultural services and education	727,481	844,481	117,000
Transfer to Deed Trf Trust	161,297	183,297	22,000
Education	619,047	618,047	(1,000)
	7,291,927	6,935,927	(356,000)
Excess of revenues over expenses before the following	892,183	1,312,183	(420,000)
Financing and Transfers			
Debenture and term loan principal installments	(396,249)	(396,249)	-
Transfer to own funds	(342,183)	(682,183)	340,000
Net financing and transfers	(738,432)	(1,078,432)	340,000
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	153,751	233,751	(80,000)