



TOWN OF
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town of Shelburne Announces \$50,000 in Community Contributions

September 10, 2026

SHELBURNE, N.S. — The Town of Shelburne is pleased to announce community contributions of \$25,000 to the South End Environmental Injustice Society (SEED) and \$25,000 to the Black Loyalist Heritage Society.

Town of Shelburne Council approved the contributions in recognition of the longstanding work of both organizations and their important roles in supporting environmental awareness, access to potable drinking water, African Nova Scotian history, community dialogue and reconciliation in Shelburne.

The contributions are unconditional. Each organization will determine how its contribution, which will be provided over five years, can best support its community mandate and priorities.

The contributions were originally included in a broader community-investment offer made during the human rights complaint process. That offer proposed no individual financial remedy for the complainant. Instead, the Town proposed that funding be directed toward established community organizations and meaningful public engagement concerning the South End and water quality surrounding the former Morvan Road dump.

Mayor Stan Jacklin said the contributions reflect the Town's continuing responsibility to translate words into meaningful action.

"These contributions recognize organizations that have helped preserve history, raise difficult questions and strengthen our community. We are pleased to honour their work."

In 2021, Town staff identified the long-outstanding decommissioning of the site as an issue requiring renewed municipal leadership. The Town's work concerning the former Morvan Road dump began before the 2023 human rights complaint. In 2022, the Town retained Dillon Consulting to undertake the scientific and technical work needed to assess the site and move the decommissioning process forward.

That work has since included environmental assessment, decommissioning planning, funding applications, two days of facilitated community consultation, and the June 24 Town Hall, where residents heard directly from scientists, engineers, researchers and community representatives.

Chief Administrative Officer Sarah Mattatall said the contributions are one part of a broader commitment to openness, learning and responsive action.

“The Town has learned that technical reports alone are not enough. Residents need opportunities to ask questions, hear directly from experts and understand what the scientific evidence means. The contributions recognize the importance of learning, listening and responding to community concerns.”

Following the consultations and Town Hall meeting, the Town publicly acknowledged that historically it should have communicated scientific information more clearly and responded more promptly when inaccurate or incomplete information created a sense of anger, frustration or fear.

The Town remains committed to completing the decommissioning of the former dump, pursuing the funding required to cap the site, implementing the recommended environmental monitoring plan, communicating scientific information in plain language, and continuing to engage meaningfully with the community.

The Town will coordinate directly with South End Environmental Injustice Society and the Black Loyalist Heritage Society to deliver the funds. Each organization may determine whether and how it wishes to comment publicly on the contribution and how the funds will support its work.

For further information:

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