



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MR# 2026013

DATE: July 23, 2026

RE: Town approves development agreement for YMCA affordable housing project

AMHERST, Nova Scotia – Amherst Town Council has approved second reading of a development agreement that will allow the YMCA of Cumberland to move forward with the next phase of its proposed 36-unit residential development at 1 Albion Street in downtown Amherst. The project includes two apartment buildings and office space for the YMCA's Community Development Office.

The approval marks the completion of the Town's development agreement process, allowing the YMCA to proceed with the project's next phases, including finalizing funding, completing detailed design work, and preparing for construction.

The new development will help address Amherst's growing need for affordable housing by creating 36 new apartment units in the heart of downtown. Located on a vacant property at the corner of Albion Street and Crescent Avenue, the project will transform an underutilized site into new homes within walking distance of shops, services, recreation, and community amenities. Planning staff noted the proposal is an infill development on existing municipal services in a central, highly walkable location.

"This project is about creating new opportunities for people to find a beautiful, safe, comfortable and affordable place to call home," said Mayor Rob Small. "Council is proud to support projects that strengthen our community by increasing housing options while bringing new investment and vitality to downtown Amherst."

The project also reflects the Town's ongoing commitment to working with community partners to increase housing opportunities and support sustainable growth. Staff concluded the development aligns with the Municipal Planning Strategy by helping meet the demand for affordable housing while making efficient use of existing infrastructure.

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