



Town of Amherst
Committee of the Whole
Agenda

Date: **Monday, March 10, 2025**
Time: **4:00 pm**
Location: **Council Chambers, Town Hall**

Pages

1. Call to Order

1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement

“I would like to acknowledge that our gathering today is taking place in (MEEG-MA-GEE), the traditional, unceded and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaw people. I would also like to acknowledge that Nova Scotia has another unique people. These are the Indigenous Blacks of Nova Scotia whose legacy and contributions date back over 400 years predating confederation of this land. We are all treaty people.”

1.2 Moment of Silence - Amherst Fire Department Volunteer Firefighter Chris Hicks

2. Presentations

2.1	Cumberland County Transportation Services - Peter Lewis	1 - 25
2.2	Net Zero Energy - Joe Collier	26 - 39
2.3	Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee - Ron Furlong	40 - 51
2.4	In The Works - Sean Lockhart	52 - 61
2.5	Cumberland Chamber of Commerce - Beth Peterkin	62 - 71

3. Adjournment

CUMBERLAND COUNTY TRANSPORTATION SERVICE



Taking You Where You Need to Go!

WHAT IS CCTS

- Cumberland County Transportation Services (CCTS) is an accessible, affordable, not-for-profit, public transportation service for all the residents of Cumberland County.
- CCTS is a Society with the NS Registry of Joint Stocks and is a registered charity.



THE HISTORY OF CCTS

The Healthy Parrsboro Area Community (HPAC) has been one of the driving forces responsible for bringing a viable transportation option to Cumberland County. Equally as passionate with regard to the issue of accessible, affordable transportation was the Amherst and Area Community Transportation (ACT) service group.

The two groups met with the province and came up with a solution that was plausible for all involved and would be able to increase the number of communities for whom accessible transportation service would be a reality.

CCTS was established in 2009 and operates a door-to-door, pre-booked transportation service to all residents of Cumberland County.



THE CCTS FLEET

CCTS currently has six vehicles in their fleet and five of these are accessible with manual ramps. There are two 2020 gas Dodge Caravans (side ramp) two 2023 hybrid Toyota Sienna's (side ramp) and one 2024 hybrid Toyota Sienna (rear ramp). These vehicles will accommodate three to four passengers and one wheelchair plus the driver.



The non-accessible vehicle is a 2023 hybrid Toyota Sienna that will accommodate up to 6 passengers. On average the hybrid vans are more economical to operate by a minimum of 25% over a 12-month period.



CCTS HOURS & STAFF

CCTS provides transportation from Monday to Saturday and on Sundays as required. Our drivers are on the roads as early as 4am until 7pm, and sometimes later. The CCTS office is open from 8 am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.



As well as a driver's abstract, criminal record & vulnerable sector check, and child abuse registry check, a minimum of two years experience is required by CCTS. Currently CCTS has four full-time, and four part-time drivers and our dispatcher/fleet coordinator can drive if needed. Our drivers have driven taxis, school buses, medical transports and even the Go-Bus in Toronto!



CCTS & WINTER

All the CCTS vehicles are inspected every 6 months by a DOT inspector and studded winter tires are installed on them each fall.

If the schools in Cumberland County are closed due to the weather, and or road conditions, the CCTS buses do not normally run, except to transport dialysis clients to Springhill, Amherst and Moncton.



Chignecto Central
Regional Centre for Education



CCTS LICENSES

CCTS has three licenses to operate commercially within Nova Scotia, Southern NB & PEI.

The commercial vehicle (CV) license is within Nova Scotia and for any vehicle under 8 passengers. A motor carrier license (P) is within Nova Scotia for vehicles over 9 passengers. The extra-provincial license (XP) to operate within New Brunswick & PEI, due to our proximity with the New Brunswick border.

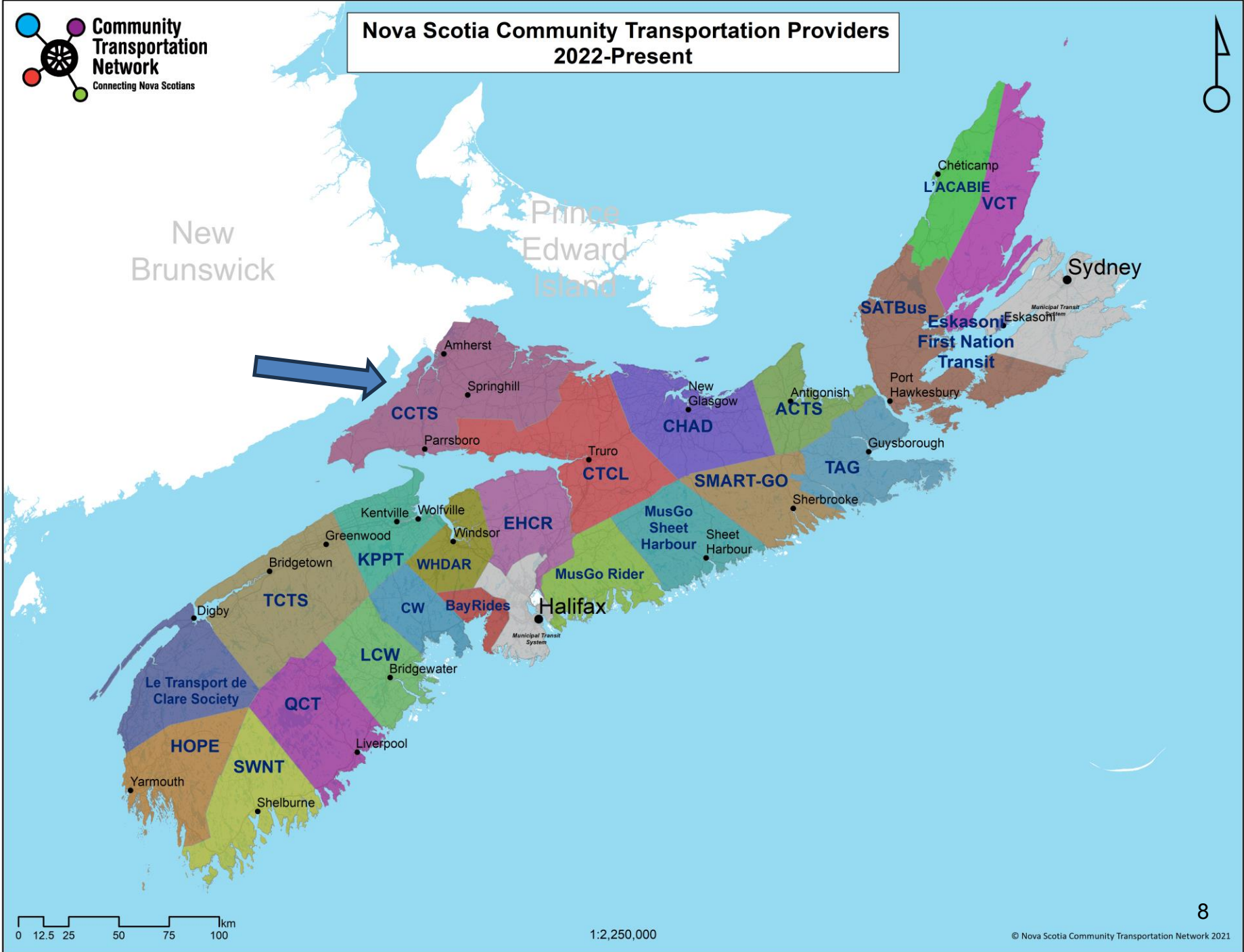


NOVA SCOTIA
UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD

The UARB licenses are very specific. As there are taxi companies operating within Cumberland County, **CCTS must be pre-booked by a minimum of 24 hours**. Our priorities (also specified on our licenses) are “specialized mobility needs/and or economically disadvantaged” and for the purpose of attending medical appointments”



**Nova Scotia Community Transportation Providers
2022-Present**



CCTS FARE STRUCTURE

The existing return fares per person for CCTS are as follows:

Amherst area (1-10km) \$ 15.00

All other trips as follows:

One passenger \$0.75 per km

Two passengers \$0.55 per km

Three passengers \$0.42 per km

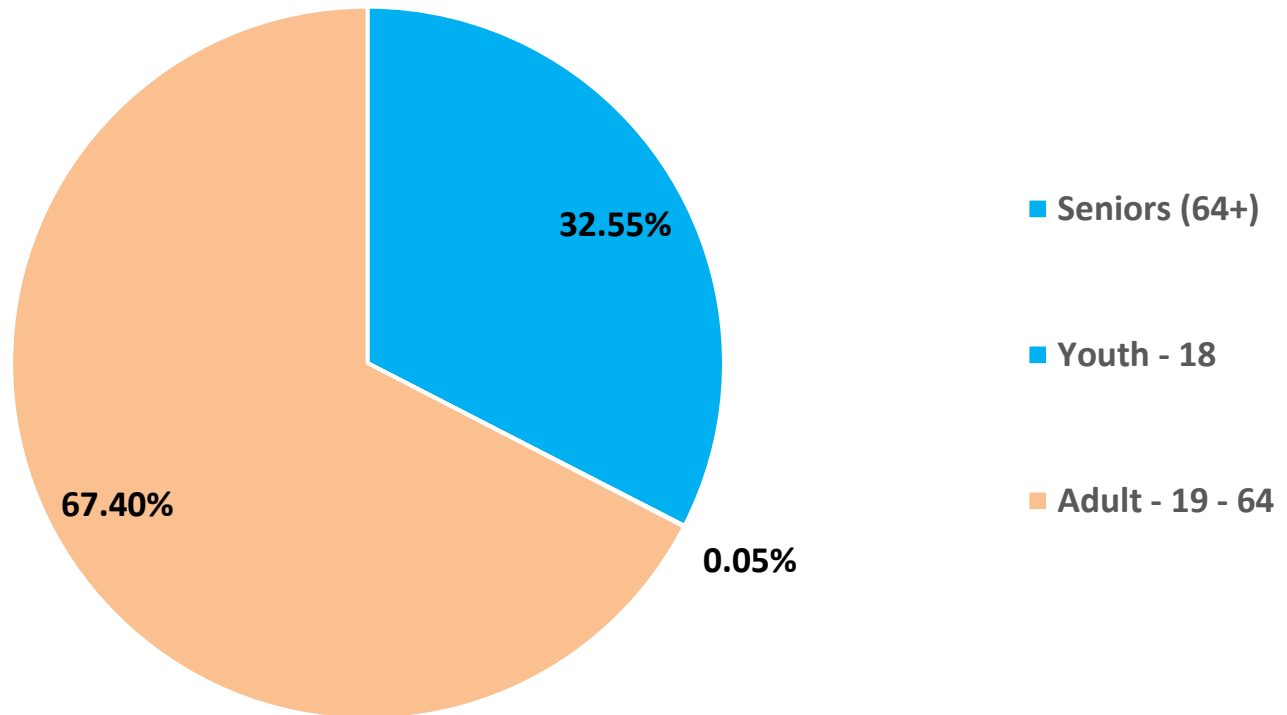
These rates are from CRHCC to the passenger address, to the drop off location and return to CRHCC.

CCTS charges \$20 for wait times, after the first hour.

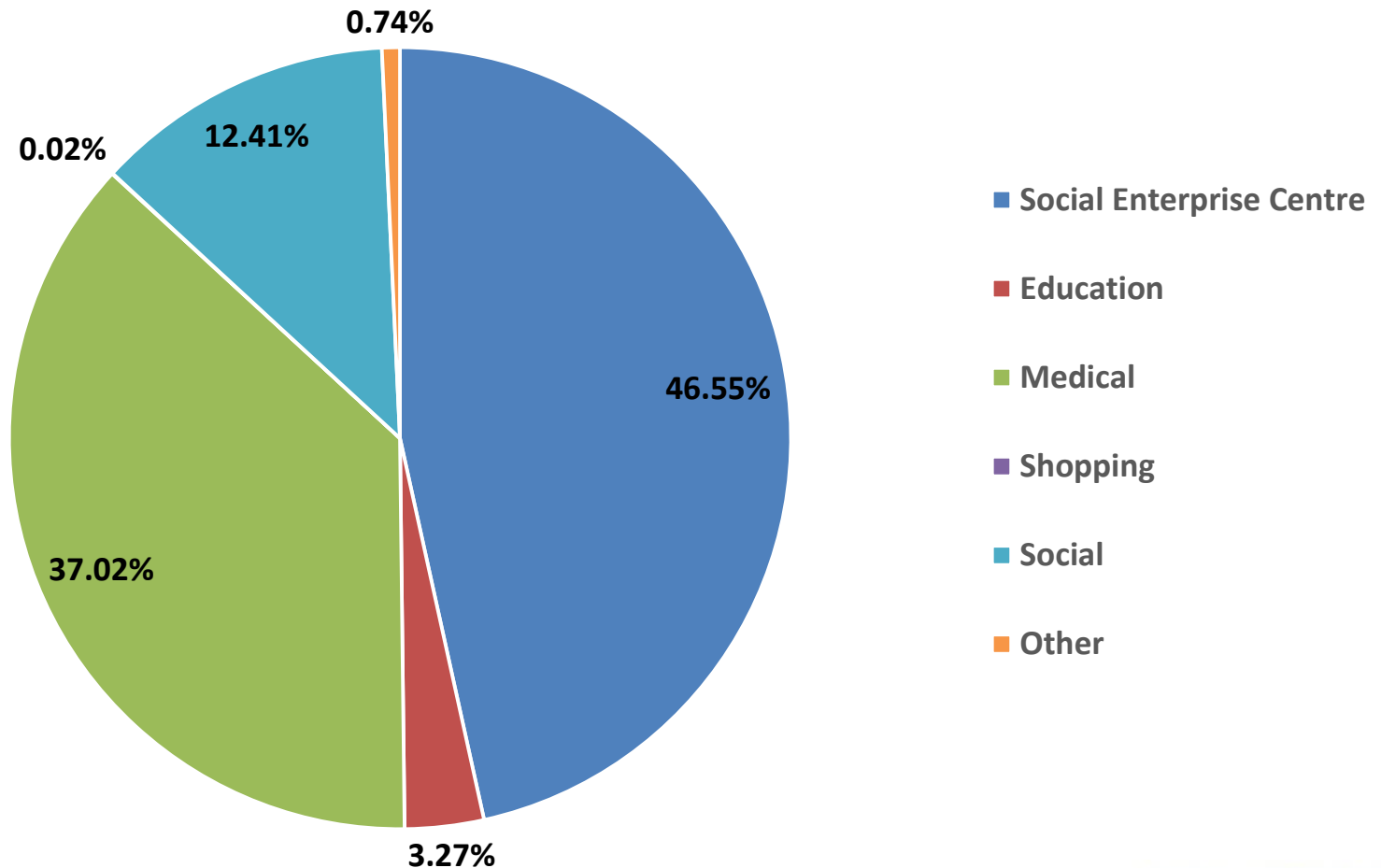
One attendant travels for free.



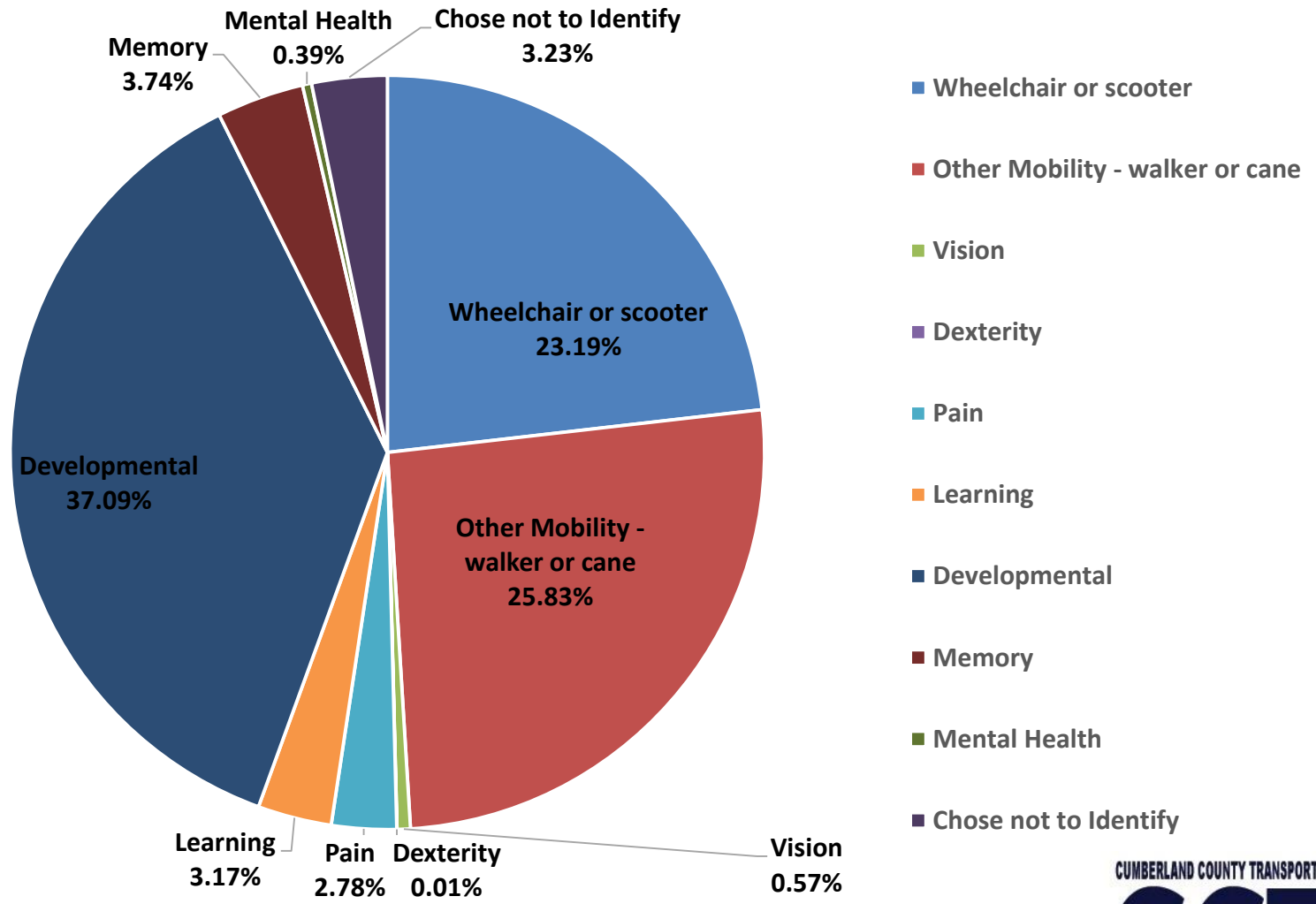
CCTS Clients By Age –2024



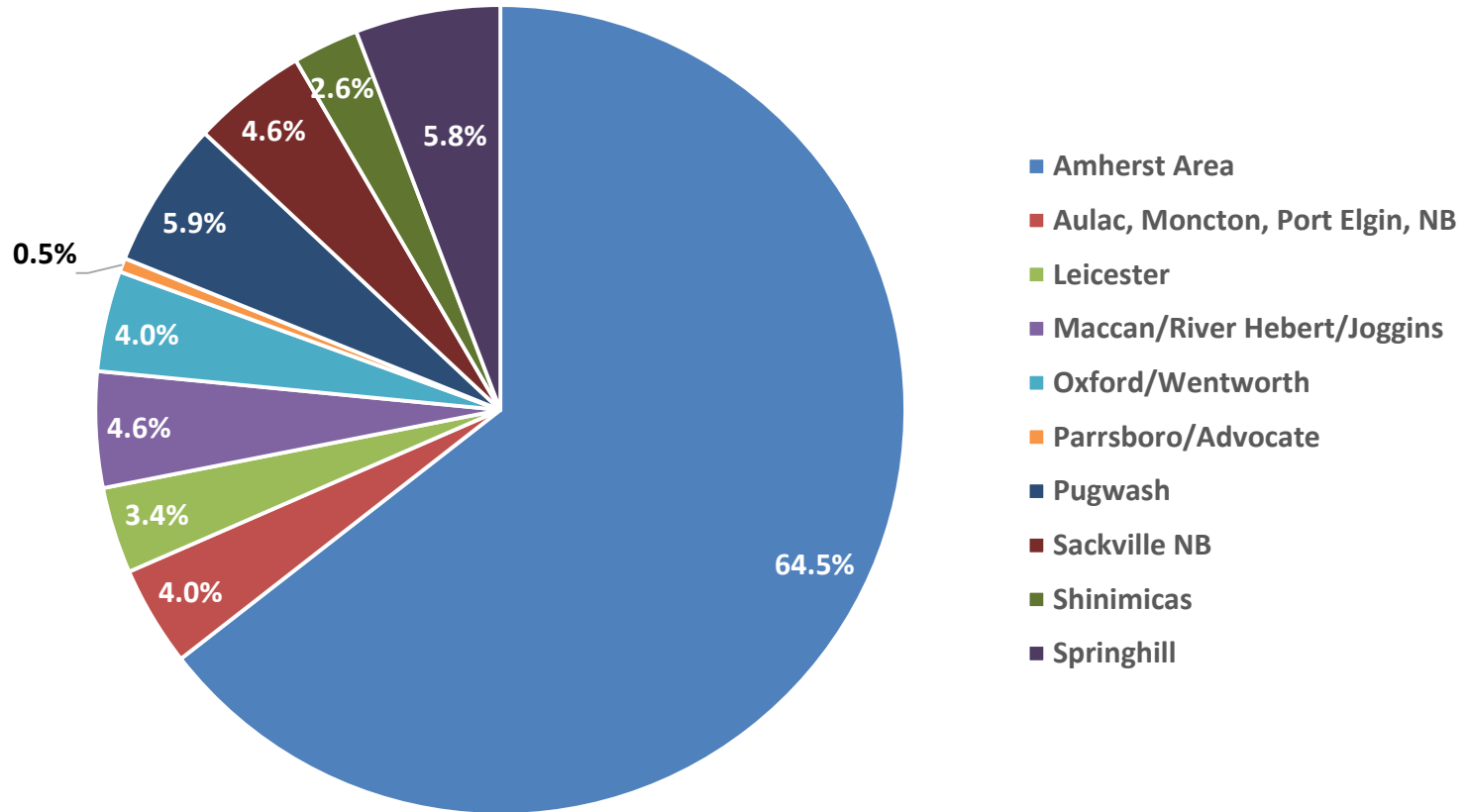
CCTS Clients by Reason for Travel – 2024



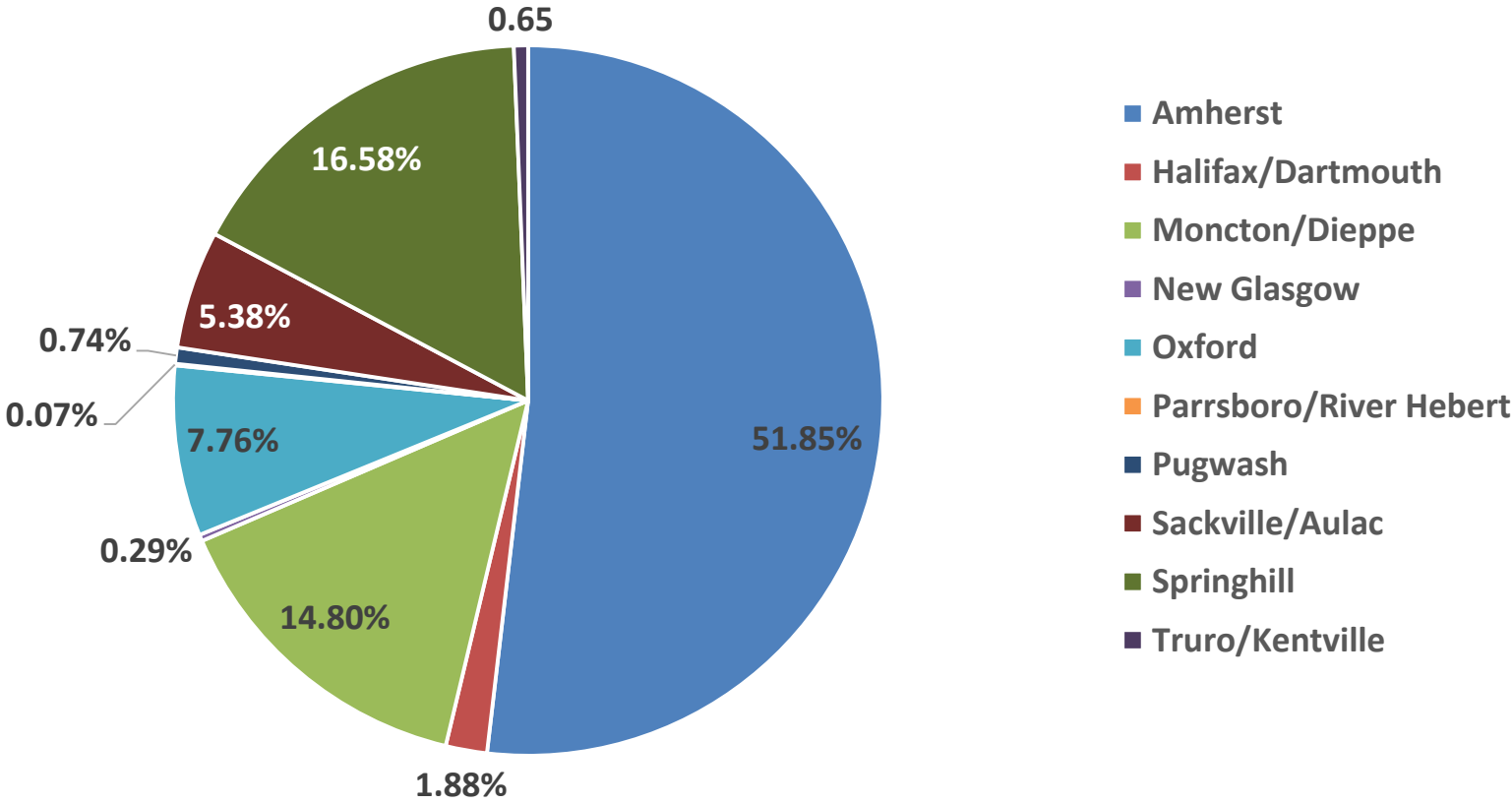
CCTS Clients By Disability– 2024



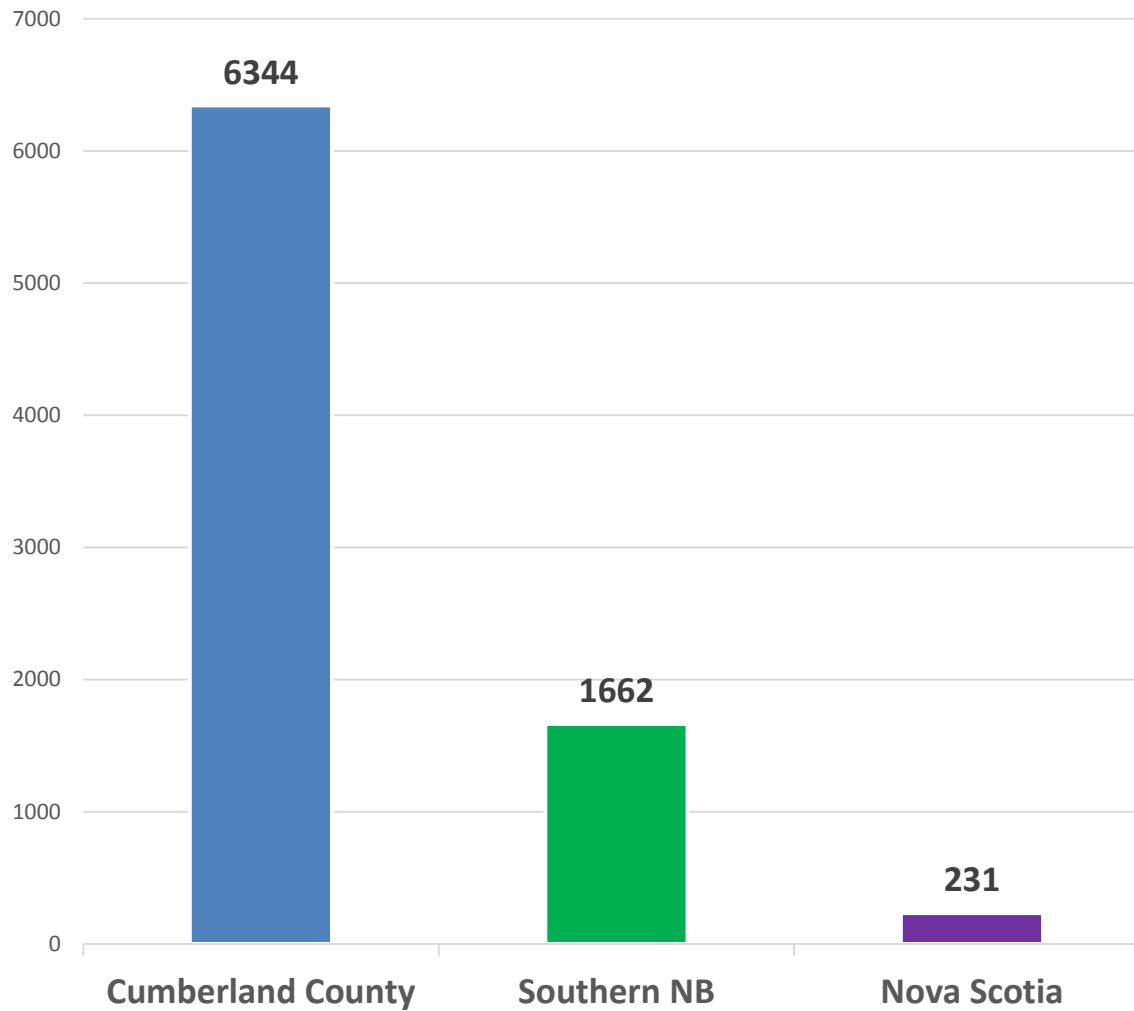
Ridership By Pick-Up Location - 2024



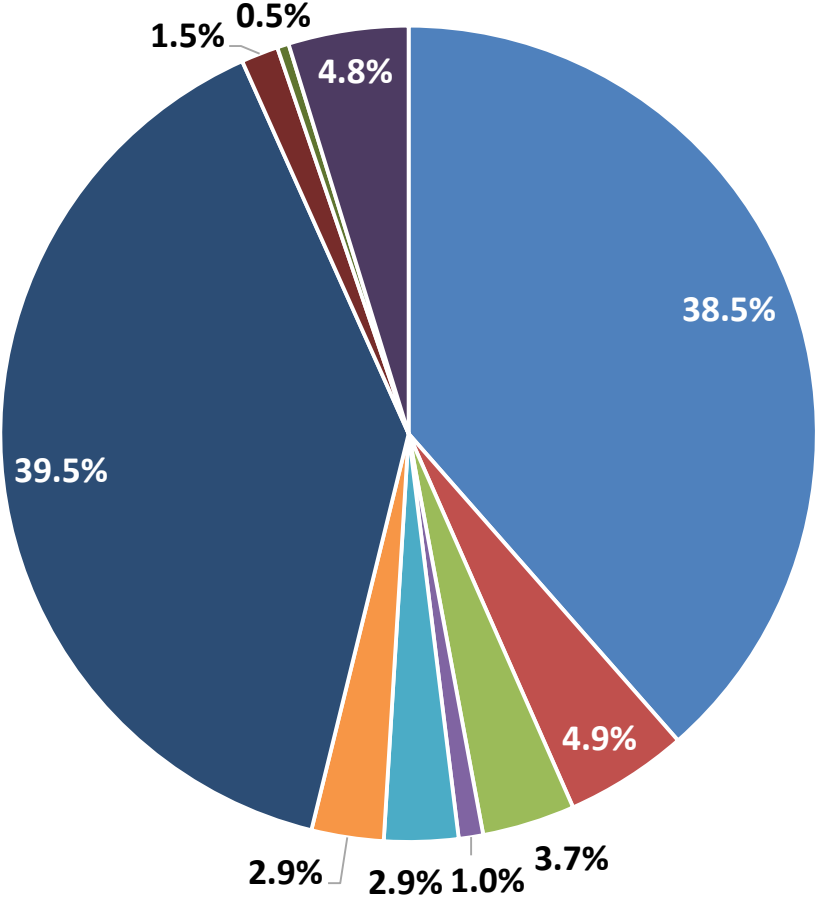
Ridership By Destination - 2024



Client destinations - 2024

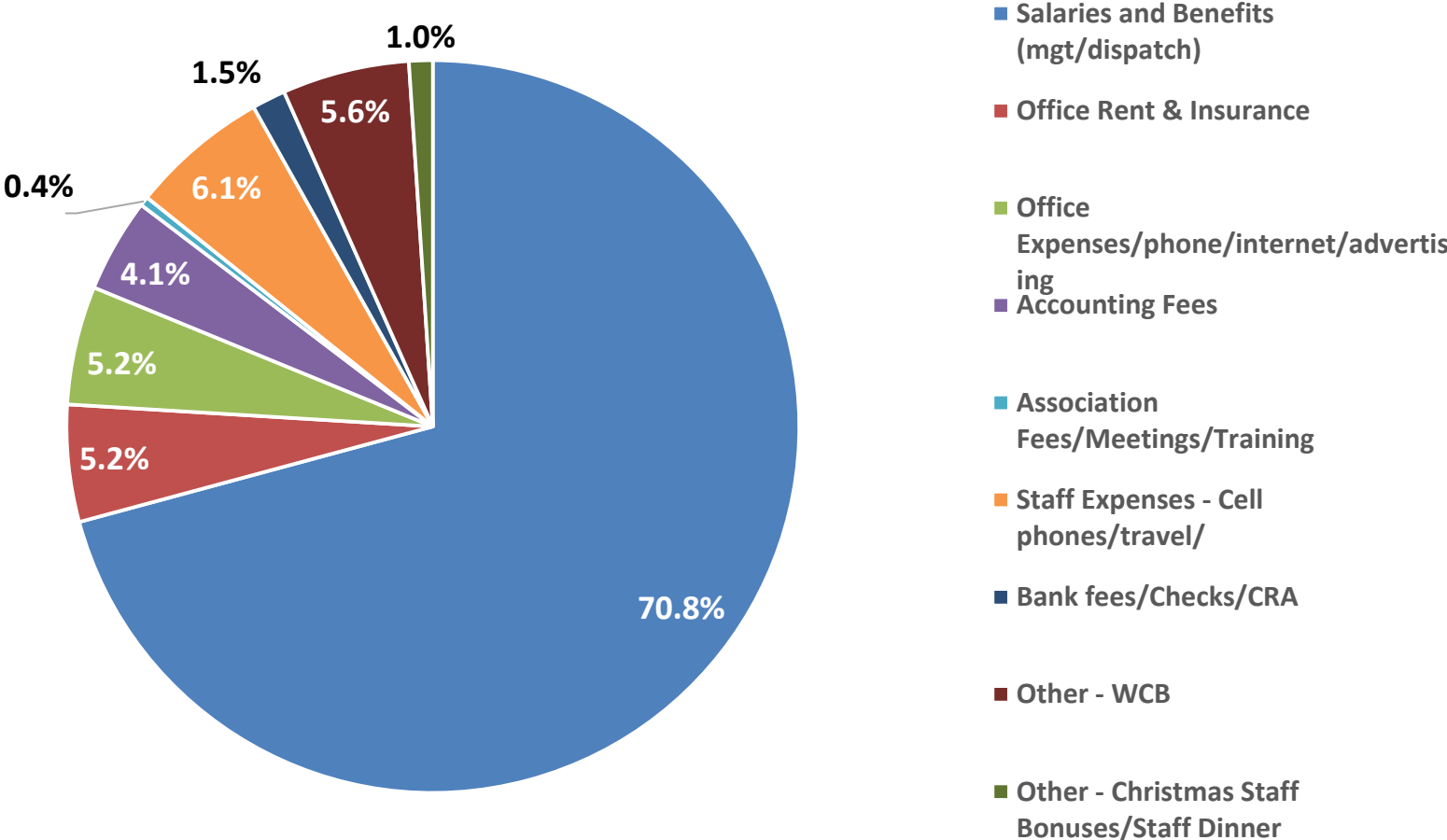


CCTS Revenue – January to December 2024

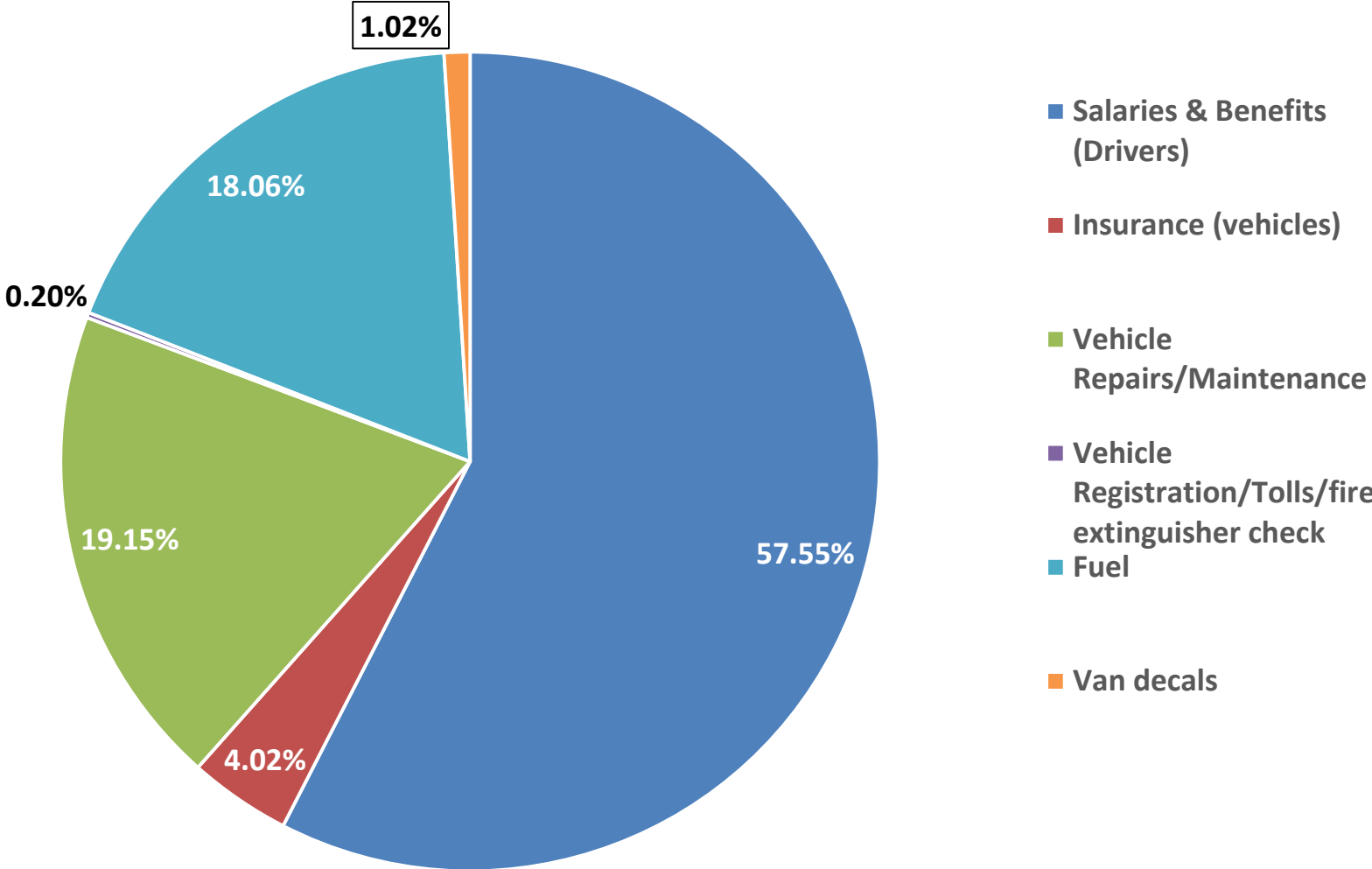


- CTAP (Province)
- One time Provincial grant
- Fare Assistance Program (Province)
- Fuel Tax Rebates
- Municipalities
- Federal HST Rebate
- Fare Income
- Donations (charitable tax receipt issued)
- Misc. income & Interest
- Sale of CCTS vehicles

CCTS Admin Expenses – January to December 2024



CCTS Vehicle Expenses – January to December 2024



Where CCTS takes their clients

Bridge Adult Service Centre (Amherst)

GOVRC (Springhill)

NSCC (Springhill)

CANU

VON Adult Day Program (Amherst & Oxford)

Mental Health & Addictions

Department of Community Services

Northern Zone Health

Gables Lodge, Shannex, Centennial Villa

Victoria Manor (Amherst)

Highcrest (Springhill)

Meadow Vista/Four Seasons Manor (Oxford)

East Cumberland Lodge, Sunset Community & North Cumberland Hospital (Pugwash)

South Cumberland Hospital & Community Care Centre (Parrsboro)

All Saints Hospital & Dialysis Unit (Springhill)

Cumberland Regional Health Care Center (CRHCC) & dialysis unit (Amherst)

Bayview Memorial Health Center (Advocate)

Amherst Family Dental Clinic

Amherst Pharmasave

Cumberland Eye Care, Walmart Eye Clinic, FYI

PT Health, Lawton's, Atlantic Smile (Amherst)

Aberdeen Hospital & NS Orthopedic Assessment
Clinic (New Glasgow)

QE II Health Sciences Center (Halifax)

IWK (Halifax)

Colchester East Hants Health Care Centre (Truro)

George Dumont Hospital & dialysis unit & The
Moncton City Hospital (Moncton)

CCTS – Planning for the Future

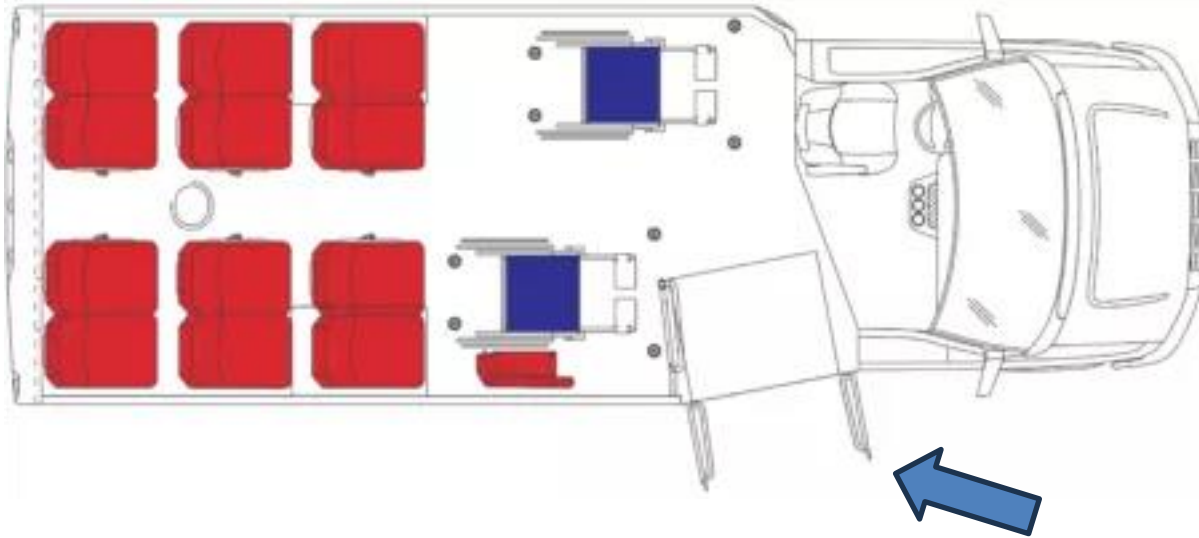
CCTS has just submitted an RTSF (Rural Transit Solutions Fund) federal application for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

In April, the provincial ATAP funding (Accessible Transportation Assistance Program) will be submitted to purchase two more accessible hybrid Toyota Sienna's by the fall of 2025. These will replace the remaining gas Dodge Caravans in our fleet.



For 2026-27, another hybrid accessible Sienna and a Crestline bus that will seat 12 passengers plus two chairs. By March 2027, CCTS will have a total seating capacity of 50 and 8 vehicles in their fleet.

CCTS – Planning for the Future



As you can see from the floor plan of the bus, it incorporates a ramp instead of a hydraulic lift. Many CCTS clients use walkers and canes and are unable to manage even a small step into any vehicle. By using the ramp on this model, it will accommodate all mobility devices, so loading and unloading passengers will be more efficient and less stressful than if using a lift!.

CCTS – Planning for the Future



As the implementation of the Human Rights Remedy takes place across Nova Scotia over the next few years, CCTS is starting to look at how that will change the needs for transportation and the service we provide.

As residents of facilities relocate to other areas of Cumberland County, or move into the County, transportation will be a major factor and concern.

CCTS is looking ahead to how it can adapt its services to accommodate these clients and assist them with their travel needs in the future.



Contact Information

Peter Lewis

Chair Person

Phone: 902- 694-4290

Helen Sims

Operations Manager/Dispatcher

Office: 902-667-8149

Cell: 902-614-2944

Email: cctsamherst@gmail.com

Dispatch: cctsdispatch@gmail.com

For more information on our CCTS, please visit our website:

<https://cctscumberland.ruralrides.ca/>



CCTS – THE FUTURE

The mission of Cumberland County Transportation Services Society is to provide a sustainable transportation service that is accessible, reliable, affordable, and safe for residents of Cumberland County.

CCTS has been in operation since 2009 and in 2024 provided transportation to 8, 237 clients and drove 350,181 kilometers.

All of this was possible thanks to the financial assistance of our funding partners.



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada



School

Work

Shopping

CUMBERLAND COUNTY TRANSPORTATION SERVICE



Dentist

Eye Clinic

Church

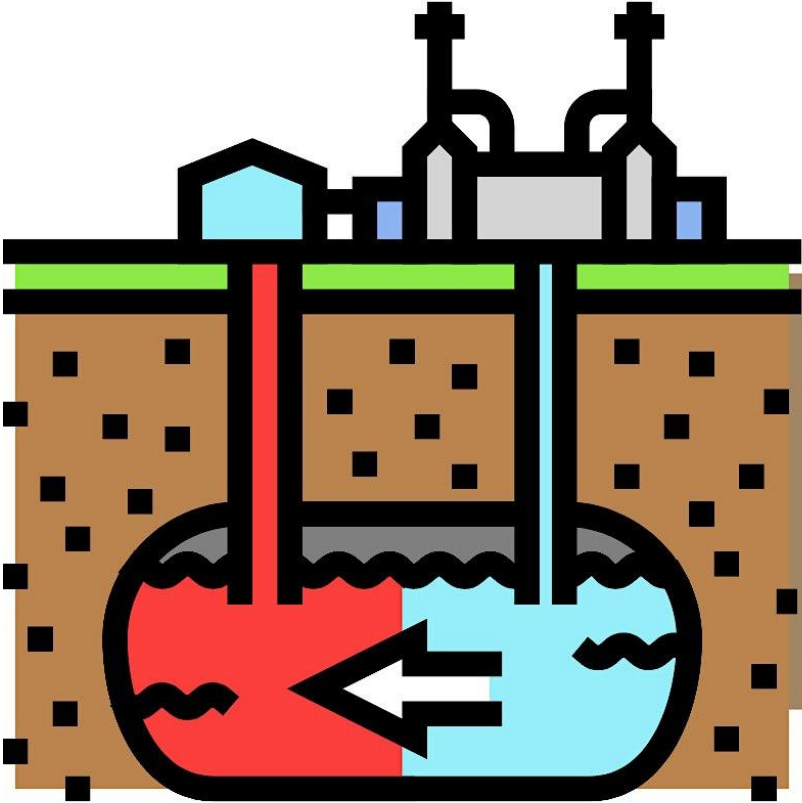
Pharmacy

Taking You Where You Need to Go!

Adult Day Program

Restaurant

Christmas Dinner



Geothermal Energy in Your Community

Town of Amherst

March 10th, 2025



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada

For more information on geothermal energy, visit
netzeroatlantic.ca

Agenda

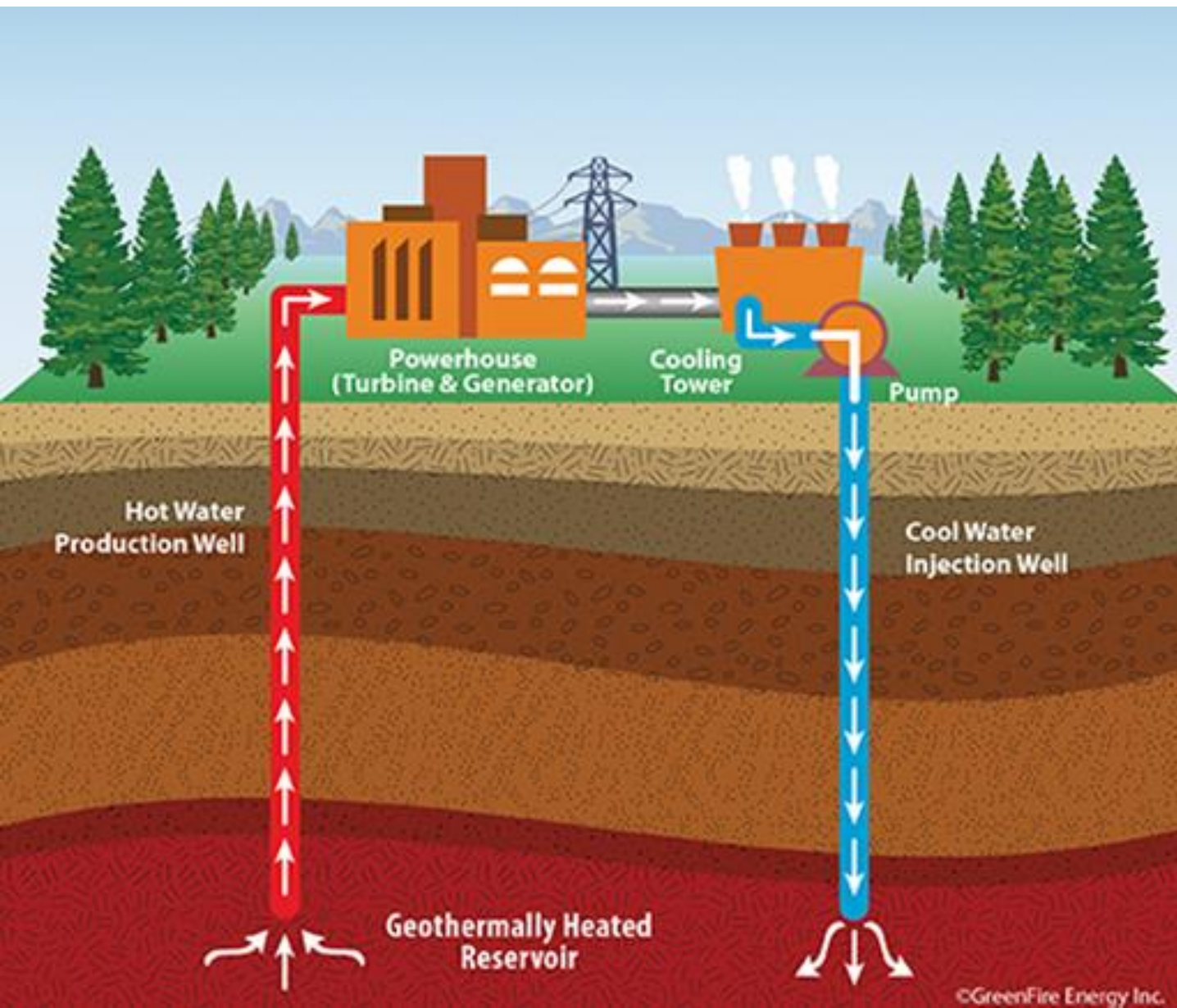
- Net Zero Atlantic
Introduction
- Geothermal 101
- Geothermal Potential in
Nova Scotia
- Geothermal Projects in
Pictou County
- Mine Water Geothermal
- Mine Water Geothermal:
Springhill
- Geothermal Feasibility:
Evaluating Risks
- Recommendations for Pictou
County/Next Steps





- **Net Zero Atlantic is based in Mi'kma'ki.** This ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq is covered by the Treaties of Peace and Friendship, which the Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik people first signed with the British Crown in 1725. We honour and respect those treaties.
- Net Zero Atlantic is a not-for-profit organization leading applied research and other projects to advance Atlantic Canada's transition to net-zero.
- Areas of work include: offshore wind (OSW), geothermal, hydrogen, energy system modelling, tidal energy, nature-based solutions, and more.
- Net Zero Atlantic uses thorough, interdisciplinary research to inform decisions and create a prosperous green economy.

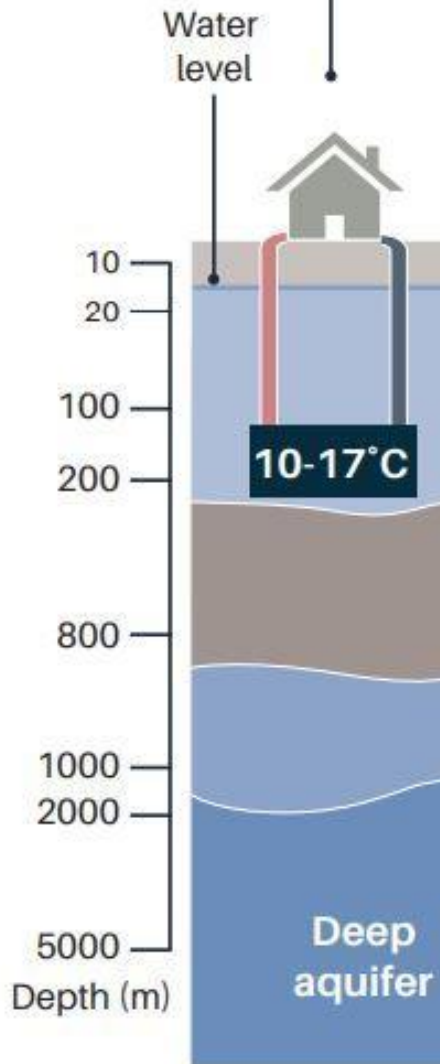
Geothermal Essentials



- Drawing heat from the earth for heating or energy production.
- Factors to consider:
 - Water flow rate
 - Rock porosity
 - Reservoir capacity
 - Temperature below the surface
 - Temperature recharge rate
 - Water chemistry
 - Geological features
 - Faults
 - Geological structures

Ground source heating and cooling

Open-loop GSHP



Residential Scale

- Closed loop ground source heat pump
- Open-loop ground source heat pump

Commercial/Industrial Scale

- Direct use geothermal system
- mine water/shallow aquifer
- Mid-depth/deep geothermal system

Geothermal applications based on temperature:



10-17 °C Ground source heat pumps closed loop system



21-41°C Spa/swimming pool Heating



21- 30c °C Aquaculture & Pond heating



40-80 °C Greenhouse Heating



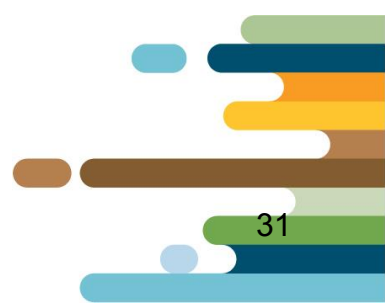
40-150 °C District Heating



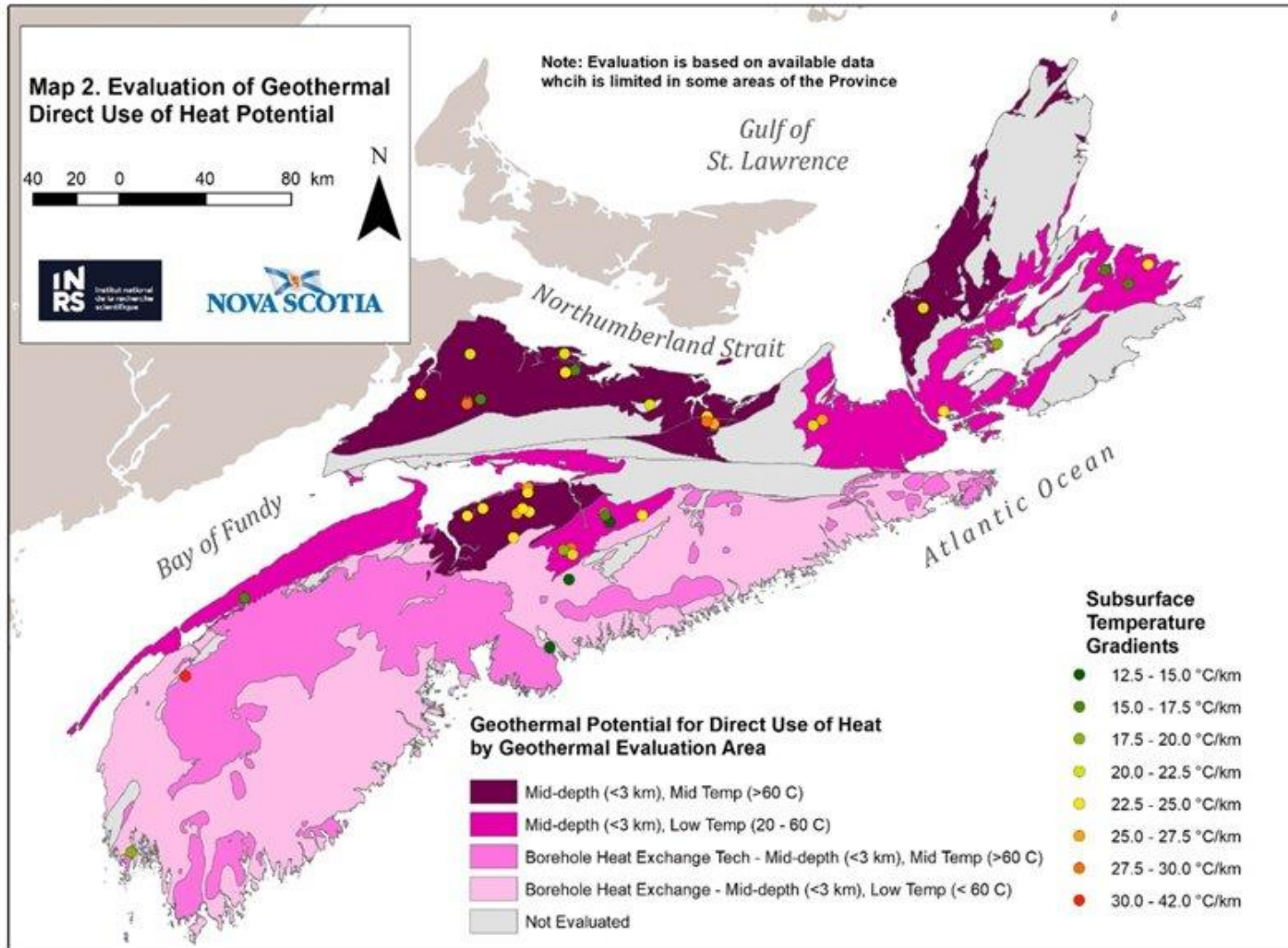
65-125°C Agricultural & Forestry Drying



Important to note that well water flow pressure is also another key factor when examining a site location besides temperature level



NZA's Geothermal Work To Date:

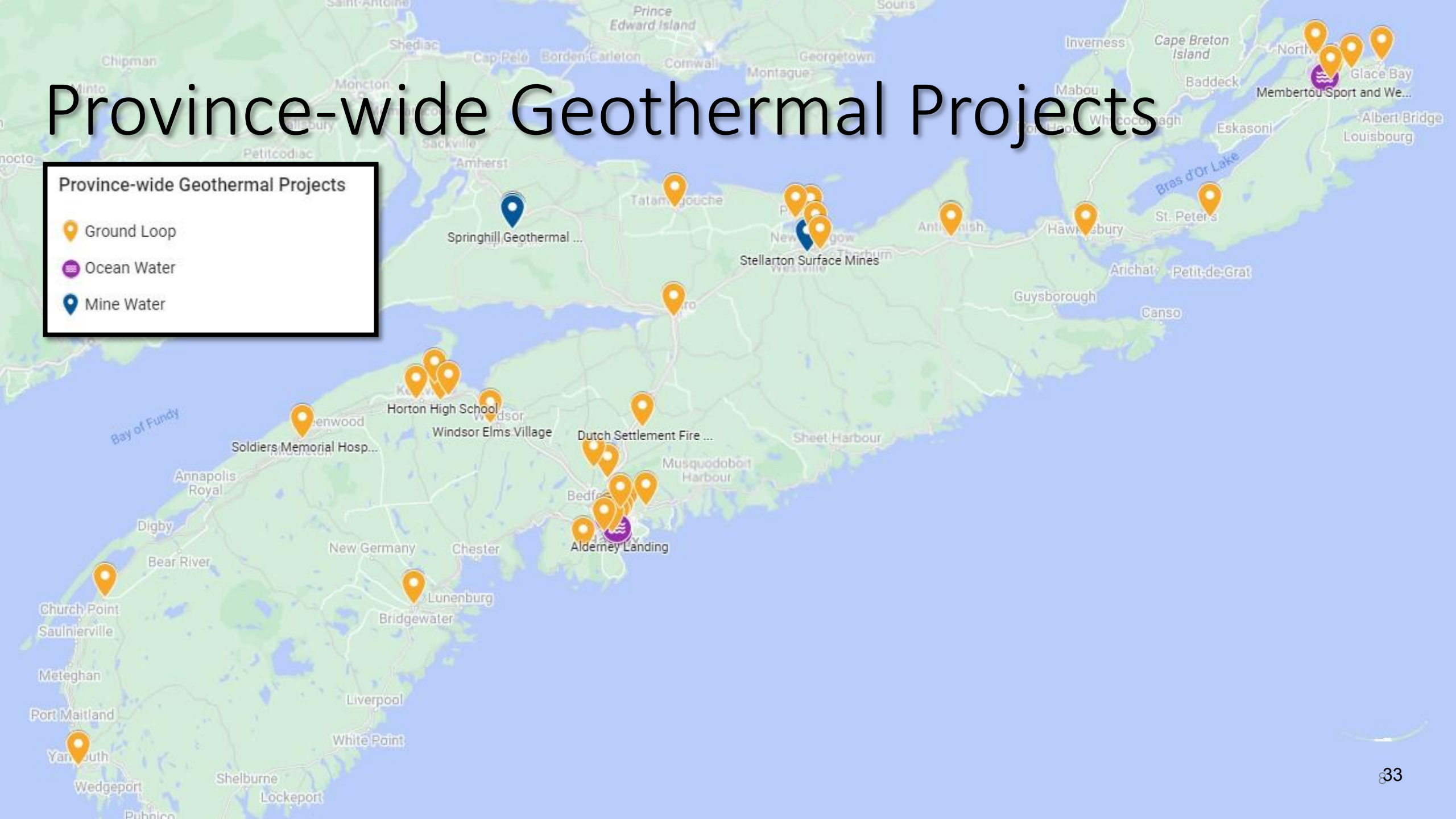


- **Phase I:** Determine the geothermal resource potential in NS
- **Phase II:** Determine the economic opportunities of using geothermal energy in NS
- **Phase III:** Next steps for developing the resource in NS.
- **Geothermal Capacity Building:**
 - Build (**geothermal**) project development capacity in Nova Scotia.
 - Goal of this work is **to provide stakeholders with a baseline knowledge about geothermal resources and opportunities within their communities.**

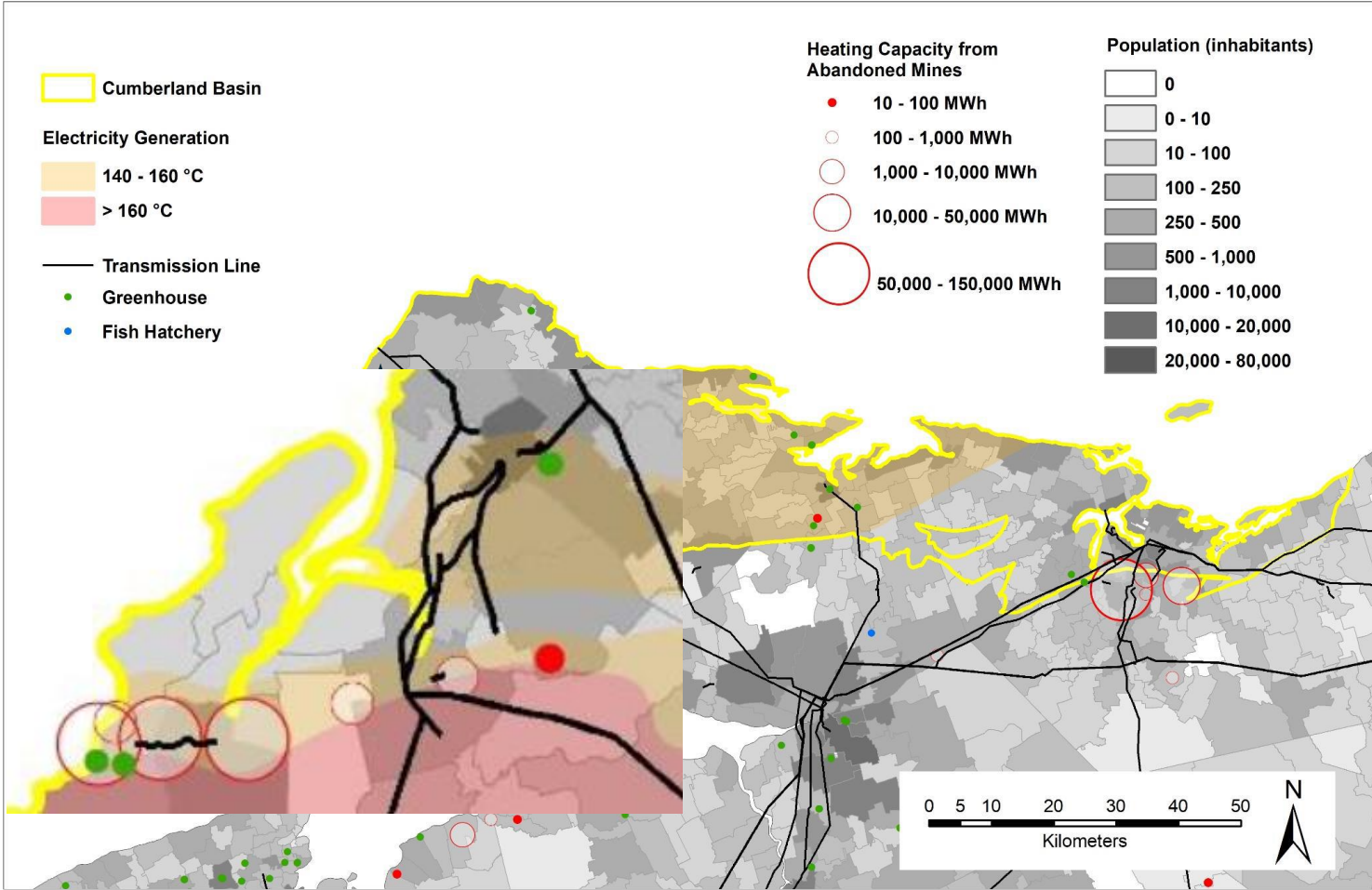
Province-wide Geothermal Projects

Province-wide Geothermal Projects

- Ground Loop
- Ocean Water
- Mine Water



Geothermal Opportunities in Amherst

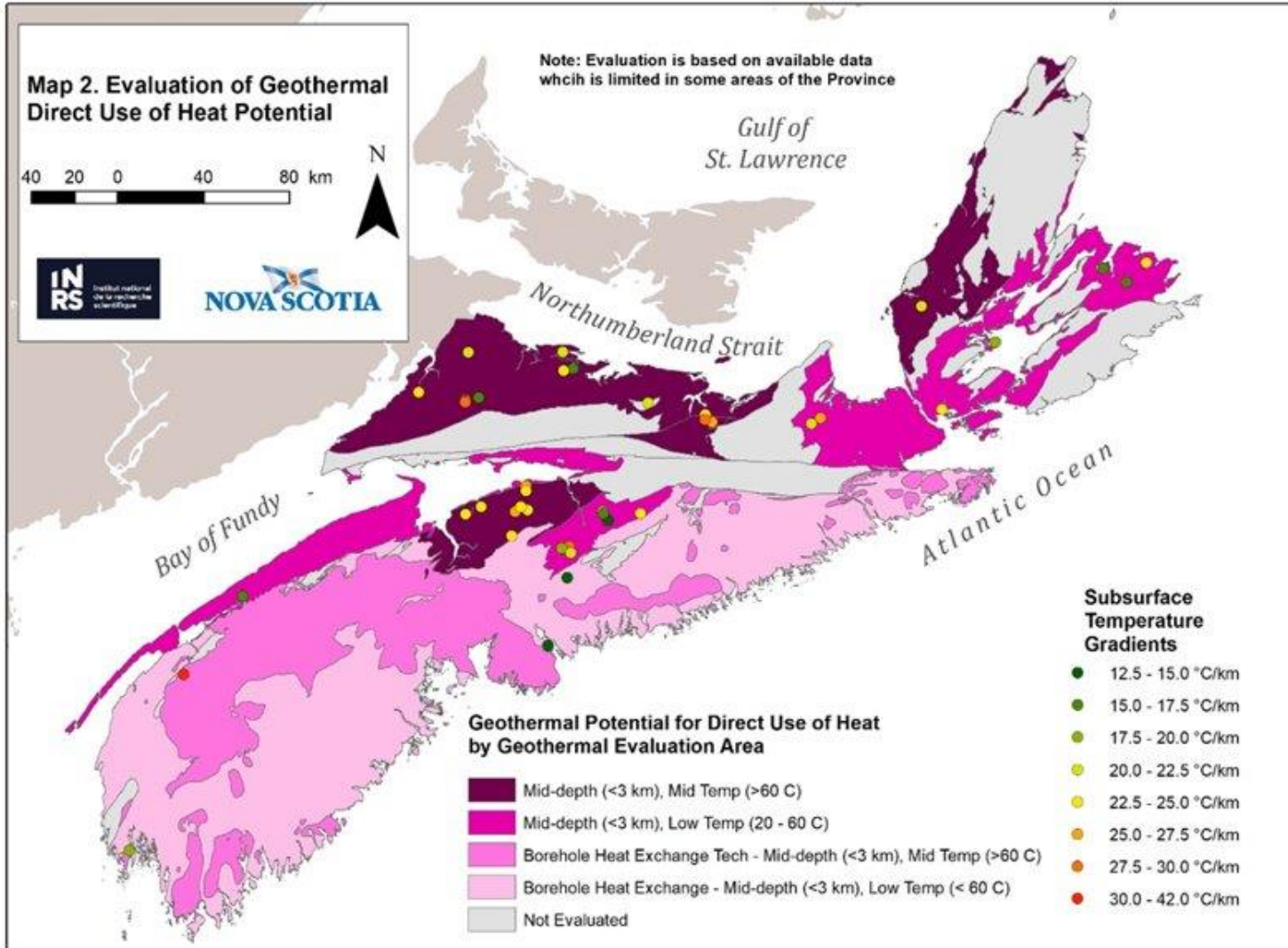


- Across Nova Scotia, the Cumberland basin has the greatest potential, by far, for electricity generation from deep aquifers.
 - Electricity generation requires great depths (>5km), not feasible today but could represent future opportunities as technologies mature.
- Several abandoned mines near Amherst have the capacity for producing between 1000-10,000 MWh of heating.
 - Cluster of abandoned coal mines around Joggins, River Herbert
 - Require customers within a 1-2km radius

Mine water heating opportunities in nearby communities

Name of Mine	Community	Heating Capacity (MWh)	Cooling Capacity (MWh)	Acres of greenhouses warmed year-round	
Bayview No.8	Joggins	2,857	835	1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mine water heating (and cooling) works similarly to a large-scale ground source heat pump. • Ideal for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenhouses • Aquaculture • District heating • Heating/Cooling public and commercial buildings
Victoria Mines	River Hebert	1,525	517	0.5	
Maple Leaf Mines	Joggins	1,349	459	0.5	
Strathcona Mines	River Hebert	1,100	379	0.4	
Hebert/Cochrane	River Hebert	1,063	366	0.4	
Maple Leaf No.4	Joggins	829	289	0.3	
Victoria No.4	River Hebert	760	265	0.3	

Geothermal Opportunities in Amherst – Mid Depth



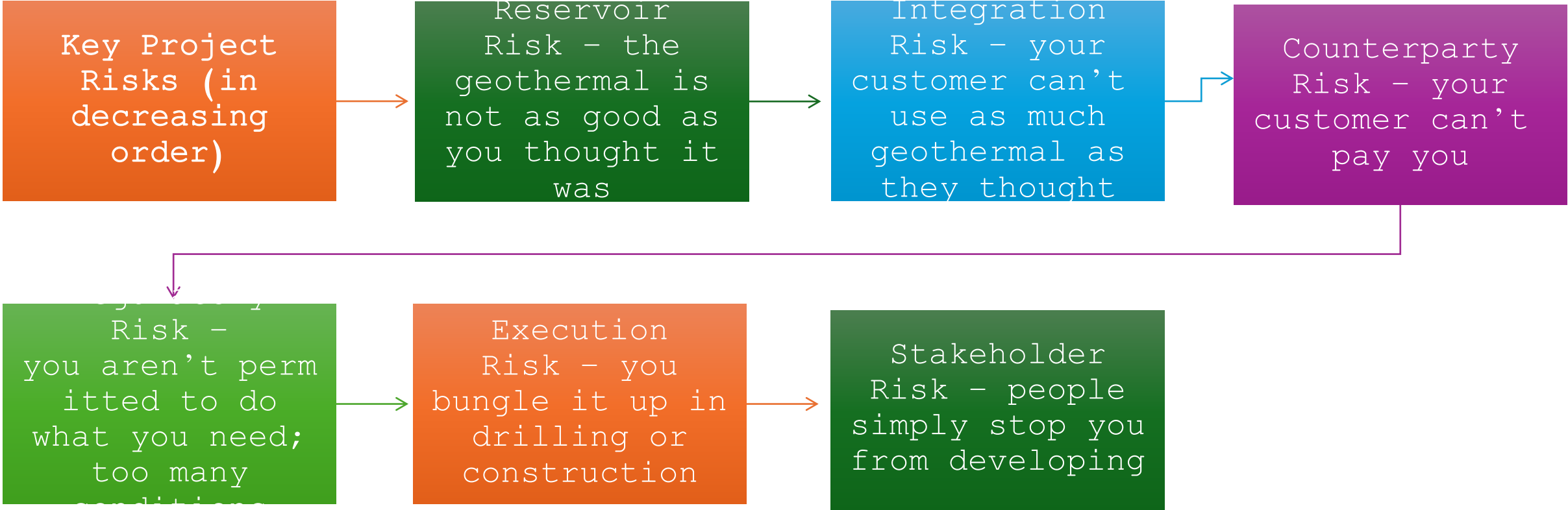
- Geothermal mid-depth heating potential is high - but so are the costs...
 - Capital costs are high - approx. \$17 million for a 3-4 km well doublet.
 - Heating output could be approximately 215,000 GJ/year for at least 20 years.
 - Suitable to large industrial or commercial consumers that require a consistent supply of heat throughout the year where geothermal can contribute at least 20 C to industrial processes (pulp/paper, agriculture, cement are ideal industries).
- IF such a customer is found, this type of project can be financially viable and easily compete with natural gas or other heating sources.
- There are some greenhouses in the area, but not at a scale that would be feasible.

Geothermal Opportunities in Amherst – Shallow GSHP



- Shallow GSHP projects are well suited to Amherst.
- New builds ideal, but existing buildings can benefit.
- GSHPs can heat and cool, which can provide huge savings for public buildings and businesses focused on manufacturing (Mauser/ROPAK in Springhill).
- Can provide reliable and affordable heating over the long term – could play a useful role in Amherst's mission to provide more suitable and affordable housing.

Evaluating Geothermal Project Risks



Conclusions/Resources

- Cumberland County has a promising modest geothermal gradient.
- Need for more comprehensive and publicly available recorded data on geothermal project costs, gradients and water flow rates in Nova Scotia.
- Although larger projects may not be technologically or economically feasible at present, there is potential as technologies mature
- GSHP projects could play a useful role in providing affordable and reliable heating and cooling over the long term.
- Funding options:
 - Federal level: Natural Resources Canada, Office of Energy Research and Development
 - Provincial level: Sustainable Communities Challenge
 - Others: Green Municipalities Fund
- Net Zero Atlantic's Geothermal Research is available [here](#), or via the QR Code.



Thank you!

Joe Collier, Project Manager
jcollier@netzeroatlantic.ca

Forestry in Cumberland County


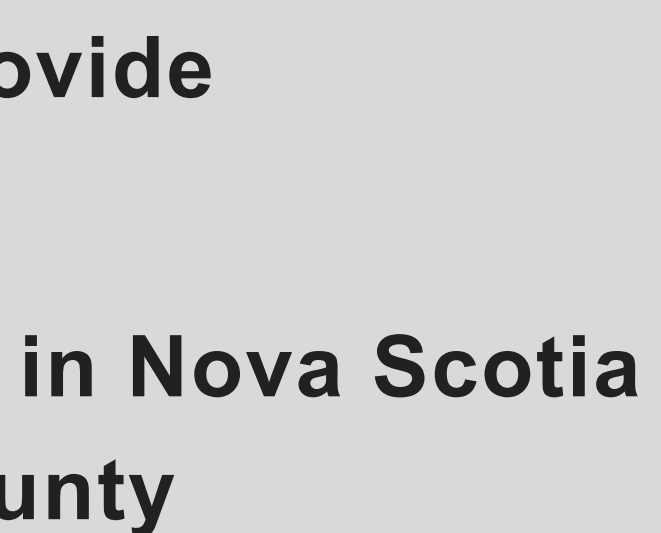


CUMBERLAND
FORESTRY
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE





AGENDA

- ❑ **Who is CFAC (Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee)**
 - ❑ **What is a Working Forest**
 - ❑ **What does a Forest Provide**
 - ❑ **The People in Forestry**
 - ❑ **The Future of Forestry in Nova Scotia and in Cumberland County**
- 
- 



CUMBERLAND FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A Community Led Planning Process

Our Vision is to transform our forest industry into a champion of climate that utilizes human and natural resources. We will manage and nurture a forest ecosystem rich in biodiversity that will support economics for future generations.

cfac2021@gmail.com
email contact / register for our newsletter
<http://eepurl.com/hsp315>

What Have We Done?

- ✓ 35 Strategies to improving the forest industry in Nova Scotia have been identified.
- ✓ The Nova Scotia Forestry Contractors Association grew out of applying our lessons-learned to the industry across the whole of Nova Scotia.
- ✓ Our current focus is on educating the public.
(This presentation is an example of that.)

Canadian Forests / Working Forests

CANADA

Total Forest – 24.0%

- 2,400,000 km²
- 593,052,000 Acres

Working Forest – 23.7%

- 2,370,000 km²
- 585,638,850 Acres

NOVA SCOTIA

Total Forest – 58.6%

- 32,375 km²
- 8,000,000 Acres

Working Forest – 57.3%

- 31,656 km²
- 7,822,355 Acres

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Total Forest – 75.8%

- 3,237 km²
- 800,000 Acres

Working Forest – 66.3%

- 2,832 km²
- 700,000 Acres

How Cumberland County's Harvest is Unique

Land Type	Provincial m ³	Cumberland County m ³	% of Provincial Harvest
Crown	956,182	38,296	4.0%
Industrial	305,730	88,075	28.8%
Private	2,030,613	394,458	19.4%
Total	3,292,525	520,829	

What do NS Forests Provide?

\$1.8 billion economic impact / 6,400 FTE jobs / 84 million in NS taxes

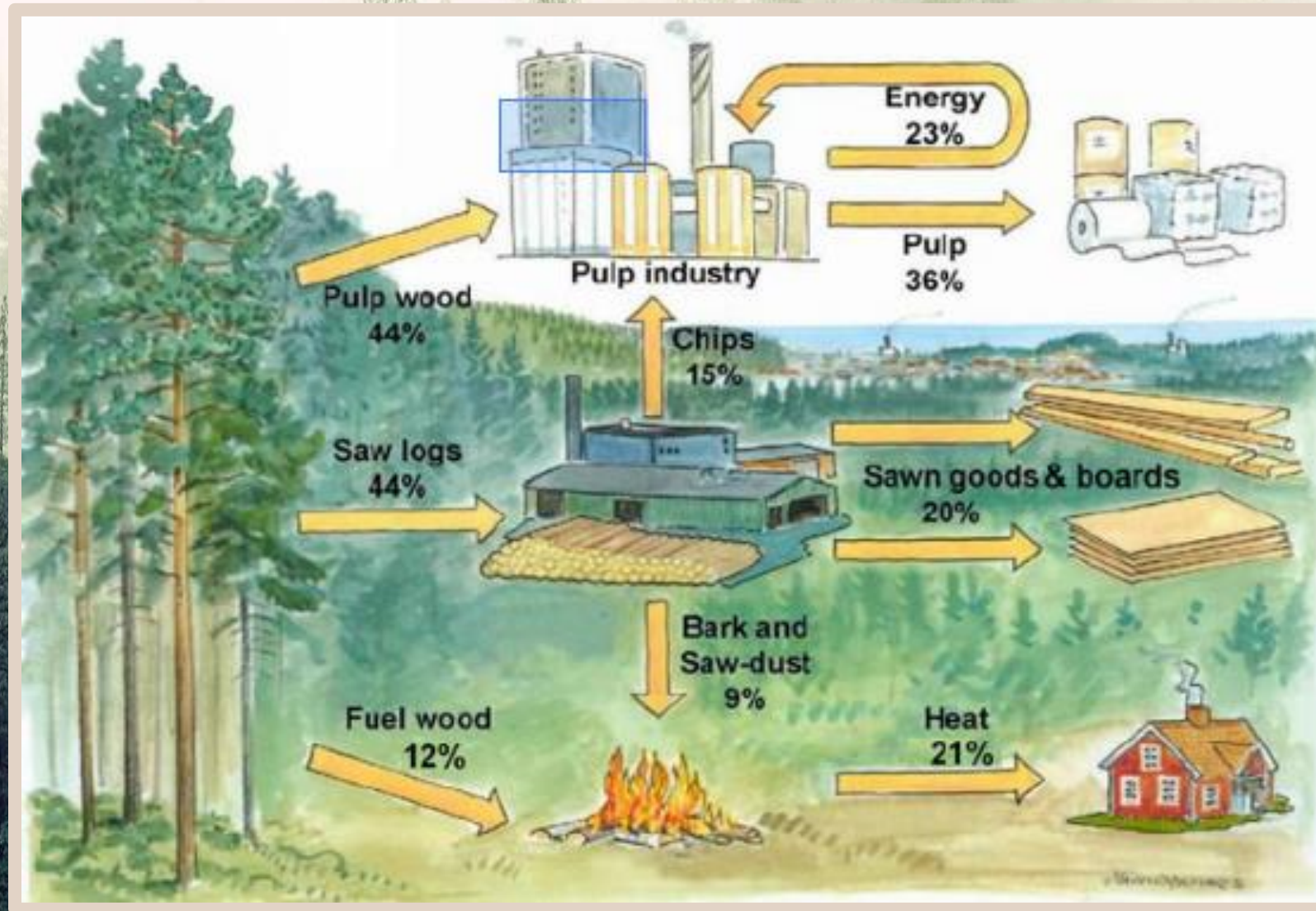
Wood Products

- Solid Wood
- Pulp & Paper
- Chemicals
 - ✓ Cellulose
 - ✓ Lignin
- Fuel
 - ✓ Wood
 - ✓ Biodiesel

Other Benefits

- Road Network
 - ✓ Driving
 - ✓ Hiking
 - ✓ RV Trails
- Forest Management
 - ✓ Mitigates Fire Risk
- Employment
 - ✓ Silviculture
 - ✓ Harvesting
 - ✓ Transportation
 - ✓ Processing
 - ✓ Wholesale & Retail
 - ✓ Carpentry
 - ✓ Woodworking
 - ✓ Manufacturing

How Harvested Trees are Used



Forestry Management Focus 50 Years Ago vs. Current

Primary Ecosystem Services the Forestry Managed for 50 Years Ago



Stewardship
Wood
Clean Water

Primary Ecosystem Services Society Wants from Forestry Today



Stewardship
Wood
Clean Water
Habitat

Biodiversity
Aesthetic
Recreation
Store Carbon

People in Forestry

- Employment
 - ✓ Administration
 - ✓ Carpentry
 - ✓ Harvesting
 - ✓ Processing
 - ✓ Silviculture
 - ✓ Transportation
 - ✓ Wholesale & Retail
 - ✓ Woodworking

What Does the Future Hold for Forestry in Cumberland County?



Thank you

Questions

?





Charitable Registration no.
798193942 RR 0001

27 Prince Arthur Street
Amherst, NS B4H 1V7
<https://itwsocialenterprisesnetwork.ca/>

Program Design and Streams over 16 weeks

Work, Life & Practical Skills

- Food safe handling certification
- First Aid certification
- Shopping on a Budget
- Meal prep, cooking and clean up
- Academics (CAEC) assistance
- Financial Literacy
- Career selection, Resume building and mock interviewing
- Business operations/marketing/branding

Integration

- Volunteerism and networking

Social Enterprise

- Bicycle refurbishment and distribution program
- Landscaping
- Maintenance/Construction
- Swag/branding
- Dish Rentals
- Green House

Transition

- Meaningful employment or the Pursuit of Post Secondary Education



Together with



We are providing Hope & Opportunities for Youth, through Work, Life & Practical Skills and re-introducing our youth to meaningful employment or the Pursuit of Post Secondary Education.





would like to say
THANK YOU



For your investment in our Youth and support
for the work we do!





2022 we went from this:



To this
in 2024:



Since 2024 In The Works, has undergone great change, thanks to your investment:

October 2024 – We hired our FT Executive Director,

November 2024 – The Board of Directors, approves new outline for the new 16-week program and adopts new policies and procedures.

December 2024 – We hired our FT Program Delivery Coordinator,

February 2024 – We hired a PT Education Coordinator
& our FT Community and Program Development Coordinator

February 2024 – Our first 2025 cohort of Youth commences





16 Week Programs & Service Streams



Work, Life & Practical Skills

Food safe handling certification

First Aid certification

Financial Literacy

Business operations/marketing/branding

Shopping on a Budget \$3/person/meal Meal prep, cooking and clean up

Academics (CAEC) assistance

Career selection, Resume building and mock interviewing

Integration

Volunteerism and networking

Social Enterprise

Bicycle refurbishment and distribution program, Low Income Citizen Landscaping Service

Low income Maintenance/Construction, Swag/branding for small events

Dish Rental service and the Green House just to name a few.

Transition

Meaningful employment or the Pursuit of Post Secondary Education





Current Programs Offered by In The Works

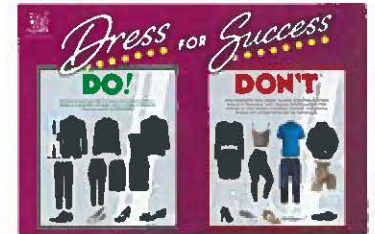
Cook, Chat and Chew



Looking Forward
(Education & Prep for Post Secondary)



Certifications



Mental Health Support



Financial Literacy



Career search tools and resources





Youth in Action





Hello,

I am in Quartz Cruickshank. I am 26 years old. Having struggled with difficult family ordeals, I find myself estranged. In life I have been meandering about with nothing to back me up and no goals to jettison my life forward. Finding myself in the care of In The Works I have had my life drastically changed, enabling a better understand of the path I can set out on!

Mr. Mayor, Council meet Quartz!





Thank You to our Partners & Supporters



The Christie-Smith Community Fund



On behalf of the Youth in our program
the Board of Directors,
our Volunteers,
& our Team,

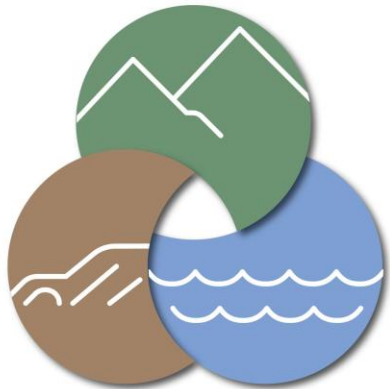
Thank you for your Partnership and
Support!



Cumberland Chamber of Commerce

Presentation to Town of Amherst Council

March 10, 2025



Cumberland
Chamber of Commerce

MISSION STATEMENT

To unite the business and professional communities of Cumberland County and represent our members in order to promote positive economic growth.



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- ▶ Registered as a Not-For-Profit under the Boards of Trade Part II
- ▶ Volunteer Board of Directors
- ▶ One P/T Employee (24 hours per week)

NOTE: The Amherst and Area Chamber of Commerce was registered on 1994-02-04. Over the past several years, the organization has been working with other Chambers and Boards of Trade within Cumberland County to come together under the name of the Cumberland Chamber of Commerce.

BOARD REPRESENTATION

- ▶ Keith Thompson - Amherst
- ▶ Wade Adshade - Oxford
- ▶ Wayne McConnell - Nappan
- ▶ Andrew Gilroy - Amherst
- ▶ Cindy Costin-Fury - Amherst
- ▶ David Beattie - Parrsboro
- ▶ Brent Noiles - Amherst
- ▶ Sandra Currie - Port Greville
- ▶ Julie Hoeg - Pugwash
- ▶ Bill Dowe - Tidnish

COLLABORATIONS

- ▶ Team Cumberland
- ▶ Cumberland Community Health Boards
- ▶ Mind Your Business
- ▶ Atlantic Chamber of Commerce
- ▶ Canadian Chamber of Commerce



PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Coming Up:

Celebrating Abilities, Creating Opportunities.



Breakfasts with Elected Officials (2024)

Parrsboro, Springhill, Amherst

All Candidates Meetings for Municipal and Provincial Elections (2024)

Amherst, Truemanville,
Parrsboro, Springhill, Oxford

Annual General Meeting

Parrsboro 2024; Amherst 2025

Business Awards Gala during Small Business Week (2024)

Pugwash

PHOTOS



BUSINESS AWARDS GALA



ADVOCACY

- ▶ U.S. Tariff Issue
- ▶ Chignecto Isthmus
- ▶ Policing
- ▶ Homelessness and Housing
- ▶ Tourism/Economic Development

CONTACT INFORMATION

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