

Transition Advisory Team

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Open letter to our community

Your Transition Advisory Team has been busy this summer working to support the community through this challenging time. I would like to take the opportunity to report on our progress and where we go from here.

Over the last several weeks, we have met with community, business and municipal leaders, representatives from the forestry industry, the local chambers of commerce, and Lunenburg-Queens Regional Development Agency.

We have relayed various concerns over worker pensions, re-training, fire, water supply and safety at the Bowater mill and wood supply issues to the province and other agencies. I believe we have served as an important link between the region and the province during these difficult weeks just past.

One of the important themes we have been hearing in our discussions so far is the need to access training. I want to strongly encourage all individuals impacted by the Bowater mill closure and interested in re-training to visit your local career counselling centre. NSCC and the province can respond with specialized training or additional courses, provided there is sufficient interest. If you are not sure where to call, our community navigator can help you at 1-855-354-2612.

More discussions are planned with stakeholder groups over the next few weeks, but equally as important, we want to hear from the general public.

We want your advice on how to best capitalize on the great people and the existing assets we have in our communities, and what steps you believe the community should take to create long-term sustainable growth in a world without Bowater.

Your comments and input can be accepted at anytime through our toll-free line at **1-855-354-2612** or by writing to **bowatertransition@gov.ns.ca** or by visiting or writing to the community navigator at the Transition Advisory Committee Office, 7 Henry Hensey Drive, Liverpool, NS B0T 1K0.

You can also visit our website at **novascotia.ca/bowatertransition/**

Very shortly we will be announcing public consultations. Your voice will be important in helping identify economic and job opportunities and setting community priorities.

The people of this region have always been resilient and steadfast in the face of adversity, and I believe there is a bright future for our region. There are opportunities out there, and I am optimistic communities will make the most of them. On behalf of the Transition Advisory Committee, I invite you to get involved and share your thoughts with us.

Ron Smith
Chair, Transition Advisory Team

