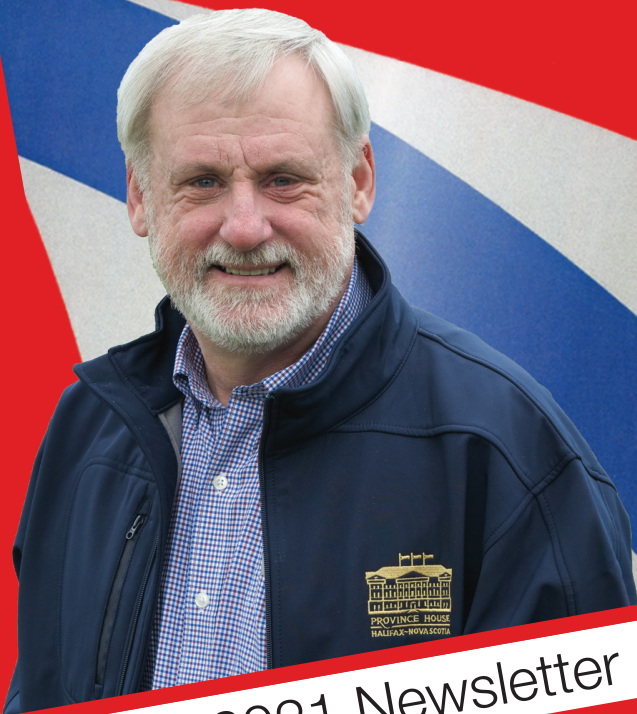


Keith Irving

MLA Kings South



Spring 2021 Newsletter

One Year On...

Here we are...one year on in the CoVid 19 pandemic. What was ordinary in our lives prior to March 2020, became something we longed for as CoVid-19 spread around the world. Yet, 2020 also produced the extraordinary – the remarkable effort to produce a vaccine which today is being rolled out in Nova Scotia communities and throughout the world. We have also witnessed extraordinary efforts among our fellow citizens – the front-line workers at our long-term care homes and hospitals. They embody the words ‘public service’, as do the many farmers and front-line workers in our supermarkets and farmer’s markets, who have had to continually adapt their operations to allow us to safely put food on our tables. On behalf of the people of Kings South, please accept our heartfelt thanks for stepping up when we needed it the most.

Meet the New Premier...

I had the privilege of getting to know our new Premier, Iain Rankin, long before he considered putting his name forward for the leadership race. Iain and I were both elected to the Nova Scotia legislature in 2013, and though a generation apart in age, we shared similar values and approaches to tackling the issues of the day. I found Iain to be a person of integrity, honesty and forward-thinking. On difficult files, he always impressed me with how collaborative he was in seeking solutions.

This month Nova Scotians will see these qualities at work when the provincial legislature is back in session (though it will look a bit different due to CoVid protocols.) A new chapter begins for Nova Scotia.



OFFICE NEWS

Introducing Sarah - If you have been in touch with my office recently you will have met Sarah who is helping out for a few months. Sarah was formally a municipal councillor so she has a good understanding of government systems and programs and reports that she is thoroughly enjoying helping people with the concerns they bring to my office.



SATELLITE OFFICES

One Monday a month my constituency office operates from the Coldbrook Heritage Hall, and I rotate this satellite office through other community halls in the area. It’s an opportunity for me to meet constituents in their neighbourhoods. If you would like my office to come to a community hall near you, please call my assistant Sarah at 902-542- 0050 or email info@irvingmla.ca.

CoVid protocols in place for all satellite offices.

Appointments & Announcements



New Appointment as Minister of Environment & Climate Change

In February I was honoured to be asked by our new Premier Iain Rankin to serve as Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and the Chair of Treasury and Policy Board. The newly named department recognizes the importance of placing climate change at the centre of government policy and decision making. First up – appointing a Advisory Panel on Climate Change to help formulate a Climate Action Plan for Nova Scotia.

New Rebates Electric Bikes & Cars Announced

Within 24 hours of being sworn in as Minister of Environment and Climate Change, I joined Premier Iain Rankin to announce the provinces \$19 million in rebates to support low-income families in making their homes more energy-efficient, and less costly to operate. We also announced an investment in rebates to encourage Nova Scotians to buy clean, reliable electric vehicles.

- \$3,000 for new vehicles**
- \$2,000 for used vehicles**
- \$500 for e-bikes**

The full overview of the rebate program is now available. For eligible vehicles, how to access your rebate, and most common FAQ please visit: <https://evassist.ca/rebates>

The province is moving toward a new renewable energy standard in Nova Scotia, with 80% of Nova Scotia’s energy coming from renewable sources by 2030. Read more: <https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20210224001>

Wolfville’s Banks Bikes owner, Colin had to say about the rebates:

“It helps make e-bikes more accessible, by taking some of the sting away from the sticker price and allows more people to get into biking.”



Are you a Small Business owner?

If you’re a small business owner, a couple of recent announcements may interest you:

Atlantic Canada’s First Venture Fund for Atlantic Women Entrepreneurs - Sandpiper Ventures - received an investment of \$5 million dollars from the Province of Nova Scotia to promote growth in women-led businesses.

Property Tax Relief Program A \$7 million property tax relief program was announced by the Province to offset the cost of the many measures business owners took to help protect us during CoVid 19. – and many have made significant investments into making their spaces safer.

<https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20210302007>



Supporting Arts & Culture during Covid

Investing in Kings South Arts & Culture

Covid-19 restrictions that have been keeping people safe and healthy have also prevented many arts and culture activities from taking place. To help organizations adapt and maintain their operations through this difficult time, the province is awarding \$2.1 million in one-time grants.

Total Grants Kings South:	\$62,366
• Acadia Cinema Cooperative	\$19,715
• Acadia Regional Youth Orchestra	\$5,000
• Annapolis Valley Honour Choir	\$19,938
• Caravan Theatre Association	\$12,500
• St. Joseph's Stage Prophets	\$5,213



Climate change is the challenge of our generation and it is having a significant impact on our agricultural sector.

Throughout the Annapolis Valley we are seeing innovation on our farms to combat the risks associated with climate change. I was pleased to host Premier Rankin and Minister Colwell for the province's announcement of a \$5 million dollar investment (over 2 years) Agriculture Clean Technology Fund. The Fund is designed to support farmers and food processors who want to make clean technology improvements to their operations to help extend growing seasons, reduce the carbon footprint, and ultimately strengthen food security in our province. Change is happening quickly in our agricultural sector. Earl Kidston represented Nova Agri's Vital Berry Farms and highlighted the importance of having provincial support to allow our agricultural sector to take advantage of new technologies.

Covid Contacts and Information



List of potential exposures

<http://www.nshealth.ca/covid-exposures>

Daily covid checklist

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Daily-COVID-checklist-en.pdf>

Email Contact for Public Health

COVID19INFO@novascotia.ca

Public Health (Wolfville):

Eastern Kings Memorial Community Health Centre

23 Earncliffe Avenue, Wolfville, NS B4P 1X4 Phone: (902) 542-631

We thank you for your patience and we look forward to ensuring that every Nova Scotian has their first dose of the vaccine by June. We are on track with our province's immunization plan, it is evolving and expanding daily, and we are working hard to keep our constituents updated. Please call my office with any questions regarding testing or the province's immunization plan and we can guide you towards the updated information.

The province will also soon have more vaccine than expected with 38,000 extra doses of Pfizer-BioNtech arriving in the last two weeks of March.

Are You Over 80?

If you're 80 and older, you can book your appointment at a participating community clinic or pharmacy clinic. You need to book an appointment to get vaccinated. All appointments need to be booked in advance. Don't go to a vaccination clinic unless you have an appointment. If you go to a clinic without an appointment you will not be able to get vaccinated.

Call 1-833-797-7772 or visit <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/book-your-vaccination-appointment/#appointments-for-seniors>

Internet Expansion Project

More than ever, we know that robust Internet is essential to Nova Scotia families and businesses. In partnership with Develop Nova Scotia, the province of Nova Scotia has invested \$146 million to date to expand Internet connections across our Province.

In late January expansions to existing contracts in Kings South were announced. This additional expansion work, combined with the initial projects, will bring coverage across Nova Scotia to 97%.

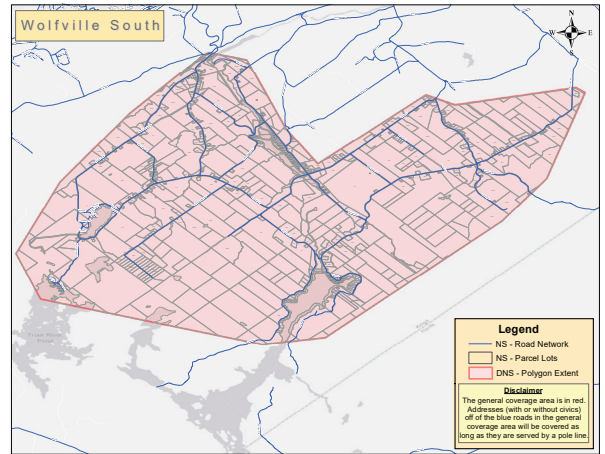
The most recent Scope Expansion Project will bring high speed fibre op technology to 2800 more homes and businesses here in Annapolis, Kings and Hants counties, including Wolfville South communities. The Province will contribute \$13.6 million to this latest project, an average support of \$4,857 per household and business connection.

Questions about the Internet expansion project for Kings South?



Connect with us directly at my constituency office or contact Develop Nova Scotia at 1-833-422-6591 or by email at info@developns.ca

Please visit <https://developns.ca> for a larger version of this map or connect with my office anytime with questions on this project.



Bell "Let's Talk" Day



Food Hub



White Rock Legion



Salvation Army Kettle at Christmas



The Coldest Night of the Year



People Helping People

We have a community volunteer assisting folks from Kings South with simple income tax returns. Every Tuesday at my constituency office from 9 am - 4:30 pm by appointment. Appointments still available in April. Call today to see if we can help with your return.

Community Key Contact Numbers

Telecare Service	811
Dept. of Transportation	1-844-696-7737
Community Services	211
Annapolis Valley Regional Hospital	902-678-7381
Mental Health Crisis Line	1-888-429-8167
Kids Help Phone	1-800-668-6868
Housing Toll-free:	1-844-424-5110
VON Canada (@VONAnnapolisValley).....	1-888-866-2273

Community Events <https://valleyevents.ca>

Have you recently moved to the area?

Check out the Wolfville & Area newcomers club at <https://wolfvillenewcomers.org/contact>

Stay Connected with Me

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