



# Keith Irving

## MLA Kings South

@keithirvingns

### FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

As I write this it is a beautiful day in early November and the trees and farmland are finishing their spectacular autumn show of colours. How fortunate we are to live in the Annapolis Valley.

If you have not seen as much of me at local events this fall it is because I have been in the Legislature – representing the collective voice of Kings South – and serving as the Opposition critic for Environment & Climate Change and Agriculture. It’s a new role but the subject matter is familiar and allows me to stay up to date on issues that have direct relevance to Kings South.

The highlight of the fall session in the Legislative for me was the day I introduced a Private Members Bill – An Act Respecting Down Syndrome, otherwise known as “Harvey’s Bill”. The credit for this bill goes to a local family who explained to me the hurdles they went through to get informed,

balanced and inclusive information on Down syndrome after receiving the news during their prenatal journey that their child would be born with Down syndrome. Thank you to everyone who reached out to support this Bill which I will continue to advocate for in the next sitting of the Legislature as we work together towards a more inclusive Nova Scotia.

In this issue I have included information on several programs for which there has been demand through my office in the last year. Please contact my office if we can be of any assistance navigating government programs.

I’m looking forward to the winter months – not quite as much as when I lived in the Arctic and owned a dog-team – but close.



Will and Alison Brewer with Keith



Keith introducing “Harvey’s Bill”

### OFFICE NEWS

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 is 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](mailto:info@irvingmla.ca).

*Covid protocols in place for all satellite offices.*



You might have noticed a bright, colourful, rainbow bench in front of my constituency office in Wolfville, this bench was handmade from our friends at the Flowercart Group in New Minas.

[info@flowercart.ca](mailto:info@flowercart.ca) (902) 681-0120

## Mental Health – Taking Care of You

Throughout this pandemic we have witnessed or perhaps heard about our neighbours, friends and loved ones who have felt sad, depressed and alone. Some have experienced or are experiencing a mental health crisis and we want to make sure we are providing as much help and assistance and information as possible.

### Provincial Mental Health Crisis Line

902-429-8167 Or 1-888-429-8167

### Kids Help Phone

1-800-668-6868 Or Text Connect To 686868

### NS Health Mental Health & Addictions

[mha.nshealth.ca](http://mha.nshealth.ca)

### NS Health Mental Health & Addictions Intake

Phone: 902-424-8866 Toll Free: 1-855-922-1122

Real People Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Voicemail Evenings, Weekends, and Holidays

### IWK Health Centre Central Intake

Phone: 902-464-4110

Toll Free: 1-855-922-1122

### Mental Health & Addiction Services

1-855-273-7110

CMHA Annapolis County 902-665-4801

CMHA Kings County 902-679-7464

### Mental Health NS

[www.mentalhealthns.ca/find-support](http://www.mentalhealthns.ca/find-support)

[Novascotia.ca/Help](http://Novascotia.ca/Help)

## Senior and Caregiving Support

Do you give unpaid care to a parent, spouse, children, friend or relative? You are not alone. There is support available. Connect with Jennine Wilson at 902.680.8706 from Caregivers Nova Scotia.

We have copies of “**The Caregivers Handbook**” here at the constituency office. Please give us a call at the office and we would be happy to mail one to you. (902-542-0050)

Did you receive the newest edition of the **Positive Aging Magazine**? Request a copy be mailed to you by visiting the following website: <https://novascotia.ca/seniors/directory/>

The Positive Aging Magazine is an information directory published yearly by the Department of Seniors.

Phone: 902-424-0770

Toll-free: 1-844-277-0770

Fax: 902-424-0561

[seniors@novascotia.ca](mailto:seniors@novascotia.ca)

*If you do not have access to the Internet or a computer, please call us at: 902-542-0050 and we will request a copy for you.*



## Old-Growth Forest Policy: public consultation

The Province has announced public consultations for old growth forests on Crown land. "Old-growth forests are an important part of the province's biodiversity and must be maintained. Nova Scotia's Old-Growth Forest Policy supports the conservation and restoration of old-growth forests. Under the current policy, about 10% of Nova Scotia's forested land has been identified and set-aside for long-term conservation."

Make your voices heard. Send your comments by email to [ecologicalforestry@novascotia.ca](mailto:ecologicalforestry@novascotia.ca).

The deadline for feedback is **8 December 2021**.



**Virtual Care enables people on the “Need a Family Practice Registry” to access a primary-care provider online through their computer or mobile device. It is a free program delivered using Maple, one of Canada’s leading virtual-care platforms.**

In my last newsletter that was mailed out we referenced the new pilot program Virtual Care Nova Scotia that would assist constituents that are currently unattached from a Family Doctor. We have received an update with the following information:

“People on the Need a Family Practice Registry are contacted based on chronological order. They receive an email from Nova Scotia Health inviting them to register for VirtualCareNS. The email will include a unique participant link that can be used to register for the program. Once registered, they can then request an appointment (either through the app on their phone or on a computer) with a primary care provider.

- Invitation emails to participate in VirtualCareNS continue to be sent to people on the registry in the Western Zone.
- General information about VirtualCareNS can be found online at [VirtualCareNS.ca](http://VirtualCareNS.ca)
- If there are questions or support needed – please use [virtualcarens@nshealth.ca](mailto:virtualcarens@nshealth.ca)”

## Don't have a Family Doctor or Nurse Practitioner?

For Health Advice – Call 811 to speak with a registered nurse for health advice, 24 hours a day, seven days a week – in more than 120 languages. Information on more than 500 health topics is also available online at [811.NovaScotia.ca](http://811.NovaScotia.ca) Please register today either online at <https://needafamilypractice.nshealth.ca> OR dial 811 to register.

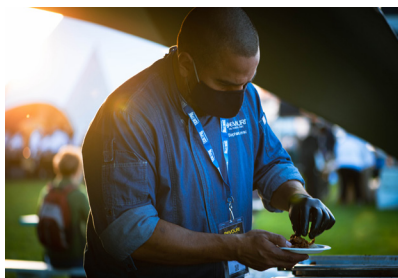


## Patient Feedback:

Compliments and/or concerns about care can be shared directly with a patients health care provider(s) or unit/department manager, or with the patients relations team **1-844-884-4177**



This month, Breanna Hall our local Community Navigator (community navigators are responsible for doctor retention across health regions), Wolfville Councillor Jodi MacKay and I checked in with area doctors and delivered a basket of Valley apples.



Congratulations to Michael Howell and Lia Rinaldo for another successful Food and Film Festival – DEVOUR- held last month in Wolfville and area. In all there were 45 films, 12 interactive workshops, and 13 special events this year attracting 4,925 attendees (4,589 in person and 336 online). Devour draws a significant number of new visitors to the Valley and showcases our dynamic culture, talented local chefs, delicious fare, and wines. We are grateful to the Devour team and volunteers for creating such an impactful event for our Valley economy.

## S.O.A.R. – Survivors of Abuse Recovering

Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse – a support group is available on Mondays 8 pm – 9 pm, virtual for 6 weeks. Contact for additional information: <https://survivorsofabuserrecovering.ca>

## COVID-19 Information

For questions about COVID-19 and public health measures, testing, vaccine and more, please call 1-800-430-9557 or email [covidquestions@nshealth.ca](mailto:covidquestions@nshealth.ca)







## Did you know we have a Sonic Device Policy to help with wildlife deterrent?

We would like to make sure producers are aware of the Nova Scotia Sonic Device Policy. This policy was developed by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture to provide recommendations on best practices for the use of sonic devices on farms for the purpose of protecting crops, while minimizing their impact on neighbours and the public. Sonic Devices are tools used to minimize wildlife predation on crops by emitting a loud audible noise that frightens wildlife away from the crop.

This policy applies to all farms utilizing sonic devices on land in Nova Scotia for the protection of crops. There are distance setbacks in the policy for you to be aware when placing your device.

As an owner of a sonic device, you or a designate must check the device at least once per week to ensure proper operation, and in particular must check all of the following:

- a. the volume level at which the device is set;
- b. the times during which the device is programmed to be in use; and
- c. the frequency at which the device is being fired.

An owner of a sonic device or the owner's designate must provide the name, address, telephone number and e-mail address of each person who uses the sonic device to the Department of Agriculture Regional Office that is nearest to the owner's location. For more information: <https://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/regional-services>

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**Marketing Sessions:** During the pandemic, having an online presence like a website and being active on social media where people can find your products has become more important than ever. If you need help with online marketing and social media for your farm or value-added business, please contact Nicole Burkhard, Business Development Officer, at [Nicole.Burkhard@novascotia.ca](mailto:Nicole.Burkhard@novascotia.ca) or 902-532-8775 to set up a meeting.



**A Special Thank You:** Last month we celebrated our first, Truth Before Reconciliation Mawio'mi event at Clock Park in Wolfville. I would like to thank everyone that attended over the 5 days and who helped raise awareness around this very important topic. Also, I would like to extend a very special thank you to Cynthia Alexander of Acadia University and Darlene of Glooscap First Nation for all their efforts in bringing this successful event together.

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**A Big Congratulations to Hanspeter Stutz** - of Grand Pre Wines, Viveau, and the Magic Winery Bus, who recently won the Taste of Nova Scotia's Gary MacDonald Culinary Ambassador Award.

"Thank you Hanspeter for everything you continue to do, your innovation, creativity and the tourism engine you are for Kings South! We appreciate you and are so proud of all your accomplishments." ~ Keith



## Do you have a concern with your road? Potholes?

Please contact Transportation Infrastructure and Renewal (TIR) at 902-424-2297 and generate a ticket for your road repair request. TIR staff will be made aware and address your concerns.

## Key Community 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  
Farm Family Support Center..... 1-844-880-9142