

July 2026

Inside the Chamber



PICTOU COUNTY

chamber Newsletter

Your Source for
Local Business
News and
Events!

(902) 755-3463 | connect@pictoucountychamber.com
pictoucountychamber.com

Welcome New Members



We're pleased to welcome Emerald Escapes Travel Group as one of the newest members of our Chamber community. With a nationwide team of experienced travel advisors, Emerald Escapes specializes in creating seamless, personalized travel experiences, from destination weddings and group getaways to luxury vacations and family escapes.

As a key member of the Emerald Escapes team, Sharon Rushton brings more than 28 years of travel industry expertise. Sharon specializes in group travel, with a strong focus on destination weddings and honeymoons. Her warm approach, extensive firsthand travel knowledge, and commitment to exceptional service make her a trusted guide for clients planning meaningful trips and milestone celebrations.

We're excited to welcome Sharon and the entire Emerald Escapes Travel Group to our membership and look forward to the expertise they bring to our community.

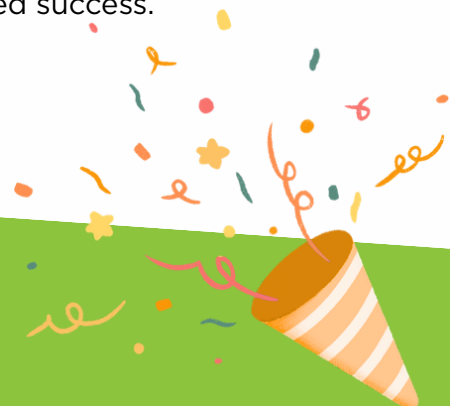
Contact Sharon: ☎ 902-695-3390 ✉ sharon@emeraldscapetravelgroup.com

Please join us in welcoming back Elwood Pens to the Pictou County Chamber of Commerce!

Owned by Dylan Thompson-MacKay, Elwood Pens creates handcrafted wooden pens and pencils, blending quality craftsmanship with locally inspired materials and designs. What began as a school project has grown into a thriving Nova Scotia business built on the values of quality, honesty, and integrity.

We're excited to have Elwood Pens as part of our Chamber community and look forward to supporting their continued success.

The logo for Elwood Pens features the word "Elwood" in a black, cursive font. A small red maple leaf is positioned to the right of the word. The background of the logo area is decorated with yellow starburst patterns.



*Nominations
Close July 31st!*



PICTOU COUNTY

chamber

2026

BUSINESS

ACHIEVEMENT

AWARDS



Anchored in Resilience

November 5th, 2026 | DeCoste Centre, Pictou

Last Call for 2026 Business Achievement Awards Nominations!

The deadline is fast approaching! Nominations for the 2026 Pictou County Chamber Business Achievement Awards close July 31, 2026.

This is your final opportunity to recognize the outstanding businesses, organizations, entrepreneurs, and community leaders who are making a difference in Pictou County.



**Help us celebrate the people and
businesses driving success in our
community.**





Nominations are OPEN for the 2026 Invisible Champion Awards!



*Nominate a
Champion Today!*

United Way Maritimes & the Bhayana Family Foundation have launched the nominations for the **2026 Invisible Champions Awards**, which celebrate the outstanding contributions of the front-line nonprofit staff that strengthen communities across the Maritimes. We are excited to celebrate the unsung heroes of the non-profit sector across the Maritimes, and encourage members to nominate the unsung heroes in their lives.

Winners will be recognized during a live ceremony held by United Way Maritimes and will receive a gift of \$1000.00!

Eligible Nominees

- Individuals (not organizations)
- Paid front-line staff of a nonprofit in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, or PEI
- Permanent or contract front-line staff with at least one year of service.
- Not open to self-nominations or nominations by family members.
- Past award recipients within the last 10 years are ineligible.

Nominations are open until August 14, 2026, at 5:00 pm!



Events



**10 WEEK
SERIES
TUESDAYS
FROM
12-1PM**

**STARTING
JULY 21ST
2026**

Virtual

LUNCH & LEARN

**FROM START-
UP TO
SUCCESSION:
LEGAL ISSUES EVERY
BUSINESS OWNER SHOULD
UNDERSTAND**

"Identify common legal risks and the steps owners can take before those risks become expensive problems."

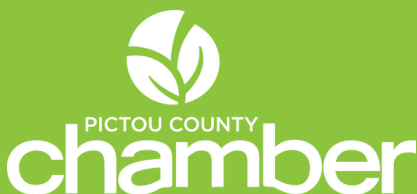
Virtual Lunch & Learn Series:

**Tuesdays | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
July 21 - September 22**

Whether you're launching a start-up, managing growth, or planning your exit strategy, understanding the legal fundamentals can help protect both you and your business. Join Mark Wiseman of Patterson Law for this practical 10-week virtual Lunch & Learn series designed specifically for business owners, entrepreneurs, and leaders. Each session will break down complex legal topics into straightforward, actionable insights you can apply immediately.

Whether you're just getting started or preparing for the future, this series will equip you with the knowledge to make informed decisions and reduce risk at every stage of your business journey.

Register today! Seats are available for individual sessions, or the entire series - and it's FREE for members!



Register Here:





STATE OF THE PROVINCE: A CONVERSATION WITH PREMIER TIM HOUSTON

July 29th 2026
Summer Street, New Glasgow
Doors open at 11am

State of the Province: A Conversation with Premier Tim Houston

Join the Pictou County Chamber of Commerce for a special luncheon featuring Premier Tim Houston, Nova Scotia's 30th Premier.

Hear firsthand about the Province's priorities, economic outlook, and the opportunities and challenges shaping Nova Scotia's future. This engaging discussion will provide valuable insights for business leaders, entrepreneurs, and community stakeholders interested in the direction of our province.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with provincial leadership, gain perspective on issues impacting businesses and communities, and be part of the conversation about Nova Scotia's future.

Want to take your team? Send us an email to info@pictoucountychamber.com or call us at (902)-755-3463 to book a table.



Reserve your seat today!

Doors Open at 11,
Lunch will be served at 11:30.

Summer Street,
New Glasgow
B2H 5B8

THANK YOU

TRINITY

ENERGY GROUP

FOR PRESENTING

STATE OF THE PROVINCE: A CONVERSATION WITH PREMIER TIM HOUSTON



helcim &  PICTOU COUNTY chamber

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Finally, payments
your business will *love*.

Helcim is the affordable payment solution for small and medium businesses accepting credit, debit and ACH payments. Is your business searching for a better way to get paid for your services?





ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
UNIVERSITY

Take the
survey:



Help Shape the Future of AI in Nova Scotia!

St. Francis Xavier University is seeking input from owners, managers, and decision makers in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) regarding what is driving AI adoption, where gaps exist, and what supports organizations may need.

Prize Draw:

Participants can enter to win one of twenty \$50 Sobeys gift cards!

Contact bmorriso@stfx.ca for questions about the study.

Learn About the Atlantic Immigrant Career Loan Fund

Immigrants looking to continue or advance their careers in Atlantic Canada are invited to attend a free online information session about the Atlantic Immigrant Career Loan Fund (AICLF) on **Monday, July 13, from 2:00–3:00 p.m. ADT.**

The webinar will provide an overview of the AICLF, an initiative led by ISANS that helps eligible permanent residents and Canadian citizens access affordable financing for training, licensing, and certification needed to work in their chosen professions or related fields.

Participants will learn:

- Who is eligible for the program
- What training and certification costs may be covered
- The types of education and professional programs that qualify
- How the program is funded and delivered across Atlantic Canada
- Why the AICLF may be a valuable alternative to private financing

There will also be an opportunity to ask questions during and after the presentation.

Registration is required by 5:00 p.m. ADT on July 10.

Registered participants will receive the meeting link prior to the event.

For additional information, contact Ken Partridge at kpartridge@isans.ca.

Advocacy in Action

Chamber Submits Comments on Proposed 15-Mile Project

The Pictou County Chamber of Commerce recently submitted comments during the planning phase of St Barbara's proposed 15-Mile Processing Hub Project. As an organization that supports a strong, sustainable, and resilient business community, the Chamber recognizes the potential economic opportunities that major projects can bring, including local employment, business growth, procurement opportunities, and investment in rural Nova Scotia.

At the same time, we believe economic development and community responsibility must go hand in hand. Our submission emphasizes the importance of a thorough, transparent, and evidence-based review process that carefully considers environmental stewardship, meaningful community engagement, Indigenous consultation, and long-term accountability.

While the Chamber did not provide technical comments on the project's environmental or regulatory aspects, we encouraged decision-makers to ensure that community concerns are fully considered and that any future decisions reflect both the potential benefits and the legitimate questions raised by residents and stakeholders.

To learn more about the Chamber's position and read our complete submission, scan the QR code below.



Or visit: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/> to learn more

