

## MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS/HOUSING/HEALTH/WELLNESS--Province Announces First Site for Healthcare Worker Housing

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Healthcare workers in search of housing on the South Shore will soon have a new place to call home.

Today, September 11, the Province announced it has purchased the former Wheelhouse Motel in Lunenburg to be converted into mixed-income housing for healthcare workers.

The site will include 10 to 12 one-bedroom units plus six townhouses suitable for families. This is the first site under the \$20 million housing for healthcare investment announced earlier this year.

“We made a promise to Nova Scotians that we would deliver more housing options for healthcare workers in communities that need it the most, and today we are delivering on our promise,” said Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister John Lohr. “These sites are close to healthcare facilities and amenities and will ensure healthcare workers have housing options available so they can deliver critical health services to our communities.”

The Housing Trust of Nova Scotia is administering funding and managing logistics for the housing for healthcare initiative. The Lunenburg site is in the design phase, and contractors and other suppliers have yet to be selected. More details will be released soon.

Through consultations with stakeholders and other government departments, the South Shore was identified as a region in acute need of housing for healthcare professionals. Others include Bridgewater, Sydney, Cumberland, Antigonish, Guysborough, Inverness and Colchester.

The total investment for the first phase of this project is \$4.7 million – \$1.5 million for purchase, \$1.4 million for renovations and \$1.8 million for six modular townhouses.

### **Quotes:**

“We need more professionals for our healthcare system and that means attracting people from across Canada and around the world to our province. Having available housing in places outside Halifax Regional Municipality is key to attracting much-needed staff and keeping them here.”

- Health and Wellness Minister Michelle Thompson

“The Housing Trust is pleased to be a partner on this initiative that will address two pressing social issues – the shortage of housing for healthcare and other skilled workers, and the availability of affordable housing for working households. Our residents are diverse; however, our primary focus is on providing housing options for low- and moderate-income working households and in this program, creating places

that will help retain important members of the workforce in communities throughout Nova Scotia.”

- Angela Bishop, Executive Director, Housing Trust of Nova Scotia

**Quick Facts:**

- healthcare workers will be given priority to rent the units at the Lunenburg site; if there are vacancies, skilled trades professionals will also be given priority.
- rent will be based on income and units will not sit vacant
- in January, the Province announced 65 continuing care assistants from Kenya received conditional job offers to come to Nova Scotia
- Nova Scotia recently launched a new orientation program that will help welcome and settle 140 doctors trained outside of Canada over the next three years

**Additional Resources:**

News Release – Modular Housing Options for Healthcare Workers: <https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20230117003>

Action for Health, the Province’s strategic plan to improve healthcare: <https://novascotia.ca/actionforhealth/>

-30-

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