

**ANTIGONISH REGIONAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION**



Emergency Preparedness

August 31st, 2023

Agenda

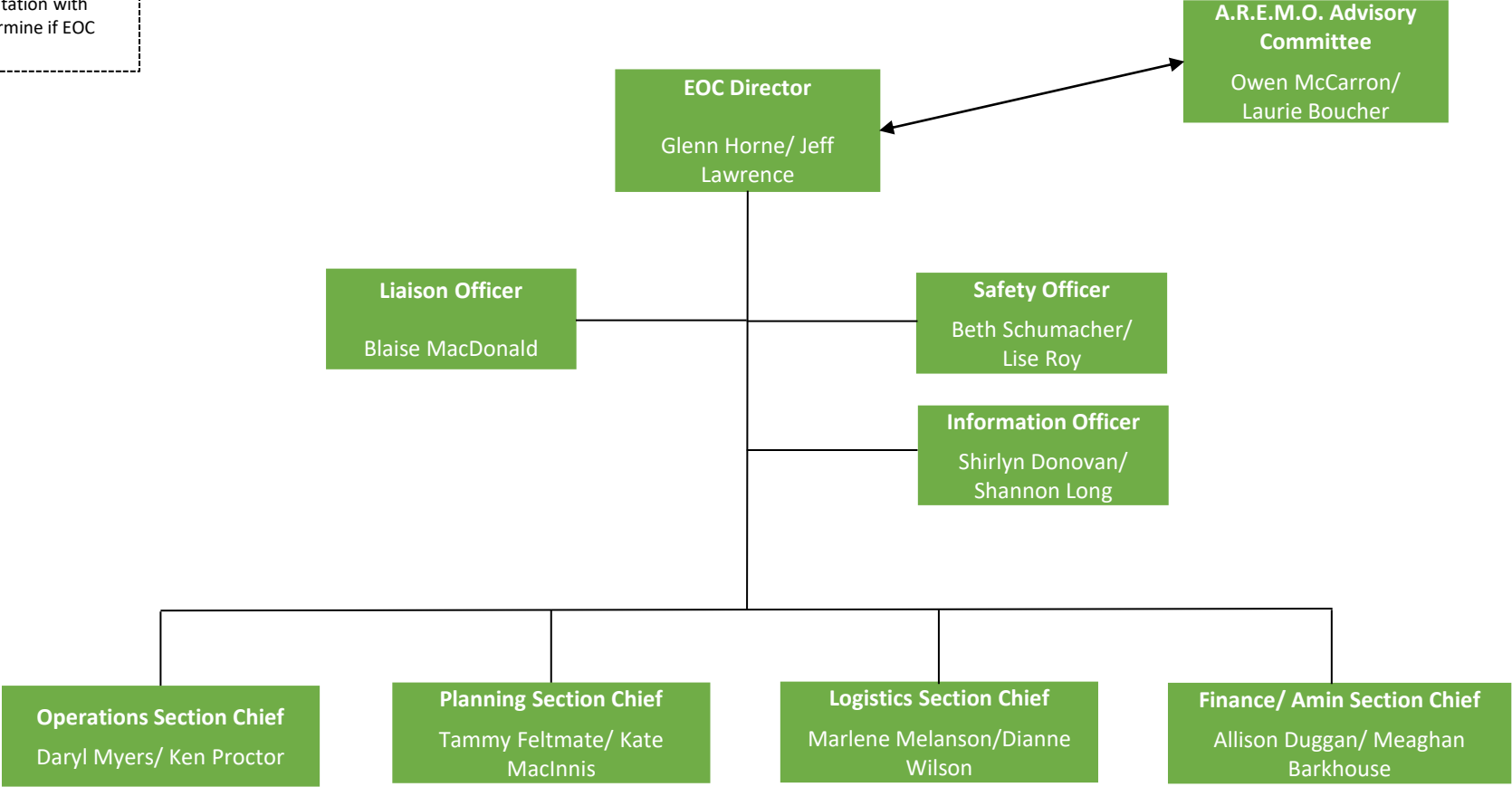
- A.R.E.M.O. Emergency Management Plan
 - A.R.E.M.O. Emergency Management Team Organization Chart
 - Quick overview of EMT Roles & Responsibilities
- Hurricane Fiona Lessons Learned
- Hurricane Preparedness
- A.R.E.M.O. Comfort Centres & Emergency Shelters
- Q&As

A.R.E.M.O. Emergency Management Plan

- The Nova Scotia *Emergency Management Act*, requires that municipalities prepare and approve emergency management plans to mitigate the impacts of an emergency.
- The Antigonish Regional Emergency Management Plan (Approved for implementation in Nov. 2022) meets the requirements of the Act and provides a guiding framework for how Antigonish County will fulfill emergency responsibilities in any type or scale of emergency.
- The Antigonish Regional Emergency Management Plan is a guide to prepare for and coordinate an effective regional emergency response within Antigonish County by outlining roles, responsibilities, and procedures in an emergency.
- This plan is prepared by the Antigonish Regional Emergency Management Organization with considerable input from key stakeholders such as;
 - AREMO Planning Committee - Members consist of Town of Antigonish CAO, Antigonish County CAO, RCMP, EHS, Fire Departments, DNR, Public Works, Canadian Red Cross and others.
 - AREMO Advisory Committee - Members consist of Town of Antigonish CAO, Antigonish County CAO, Warden Owen McCarron, Mayor Laurie Boucher, Councillor Donnie MacDonald and Councillor Donnie MacInnis.
- Ultimately, this plan aims to safeguard the health and welfare of residents in Antigonish County from the impacts of an emergency by ensuring an effective and efficient emergency response.

A.R.E.M.O. - EMT - Emergency Management Team (Duty Roster)

Note: EOC Director in consultation with AREM Coordinator will determine if EOC activation is required



Emergency Management Team – Roles and Responsibilities

EOC Director (Glenn Horne/ Jeff Lawrence)

- Assess and activate – assess the situation to determine whether an activation of the Emergency Plan and Emergency Operations Centre is warranted
- Objective-setting – set priorities and response objectives for the affected areas by developing and approving incident action plans
- Information release approval – approve press releases and public information materials

Information Officer (Shirlyn Donovan/ Shannon Long)

- Media coordination – coordinate interviews and news conferences with media contacts
- Monitoring media – monitor media and other information sources on the event
- Information development – develops public information materials regarding the event and the relevant public safety information for distribution

Operations Section Chief (Daryl Myers/ Ken Proctor)

- Resource requests – coordinate resource requests from the site in collaboration with other agencies
- Clean-up and repair – provide assistance in clean-up operations and repair damages
- Operational information – collect and distribute operational information to the Planning Section and Information Officer

Logistics Section Chief (Marlene Melanson/ Dianne Wilson)

- Maintain facilities – provide and maintain Emergency Operations Centre facilities, including all utilities, food, water, and office supplies
- Supply equipment and resources – coordinate all requests for equipment and resources from initiation to delivery to support the Operations Section
- Coordinate personnel and supplies – acquire and assign personnel with the appropriate qualifications to support site requests

Antigonish Town and County – EMT/ EOC Team September 23, 2022 Hurricane Fiona



Hurricane Fiona – Improvement Opportunities;

- ✓ Consider the impact of Hurricane Fiona regarding the number of downed trees around the Town and County of Antigonish; consider new hazards that may have been created such as increased risk of flooding due to trees blocking water flow in rivers that pass through the Town of Antigonish, dead trees introducing heighten risk for forest fire in the future. *(Conducted review with NSPI, Department of Public Works, DNRR and conducted aerial flyover of Rivers in the Antigonish Town area)*
- ✓ Develop ICS Implementation plan for Town and County EMO organization, plan to include First Responders such as RCMP, Volunteer Fire Departments and EHS. *(ICS 100 and 200 Training conducted for EMT members and First Responders. Conducting Quarterly TT exercises)*
- ✓ Organize team to review the Comfort Centre & Emergency Shelter Policies for Antigonish Town and County. Develop strategy to support the citizens of the Town and County of Antigonish for large-scale and severe emergencies ensuring residents have adequate access to temporary shelter/ lodging facilities that provide the following; *(Review complete, MoU signed with Heatherton Dev. & Cultural Center to allow AREMO to use their facility for an Emergency Shelter)*
 - Correct number Shelters in strategic locations around the Town and County (large numbers!)
 - Resources to manage Shelter
 - Overnight accommodations
 - Required supplies such as cots and blankets etc.
 - Feeding capabilities
 - Personal services
 - Psycho-social support
 - And other emergency social services depending on the nature of the emergency

Note: Partnering up with other Agencies such as Canada Red Cross

- ✓ Consider installing backup power systems for all core infrastructure for Town and County, such as water and sewer systems, EOC rooms etc. *(11 Comfort Centres approved for Community Generator program including County Office – over \$450,000.00 invested in our Region for installation of emergency generators)*
- ✓ Contact Provincial EMO and MLA - Michelle Thompson to see if funding will be made available to support essential Business Services (such as Food, Fuel etc.) to install backup emergency power at their facilities allowing them to operate during power outages. *(Letter sent to Minister Lohr, requesting province respond to this concern)*
- Await completion of Provincial EMO review of Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry needs and assess existing Municipal Registry's i.e. Kings County *(Supporting Anne Camozzi request for a provincially operated VVP Registry – will be reviewing Pictou County's resolution regarding VVPR at the Sept. AREMO Advisory Committee meeting)*

A.R.E.M.O - Hurricane Preparedness

Hurricane Response Guide

Step 1	<p><u>IMMEDIATE ACTIONS</u> <i>(10 days before storm ETA)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Confirm date & time storm will arrive, storm path, and severity level of the storm ▪ Schedule Preparedness Assessment (Step 2) ▪ Contact support agencies to open line of communications such as; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Canadian Red Cross ▪ RCMP ▪ EHS ▪ Fire ▪ TIR ▪ Comfort Centre Custodians ▪ NSP ▪ Bell Aliant ▪ NS EMO
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Step 2	<p><u>BEFORE THE STORM</u> <i>(3 - 5 days before storm ETA)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Track the storms progress ▪ Ensure employee contact information is up to date ▪ Contact comfort centers to ensure they are prepared to open after storm has passed and safe to do so ▪ Establish Emergency Shelter ▪ Ready EOC room ▪ Double-check that all emergency supplies and emergency kits are readily available and in good condition ▪ Public works crew to ready Municipal infrastructure, store loose items, check storm drains, top of fuel in critical equipment e.g., generators and vehicles, cover up windows doors if required ▪ Inspect structures such as roofing, gutters, windows, storm shutters, etc., and repair if necessary ▪ Plan evacuation routes ▪ Create an emergency communication plan (includes all employee, response agencies and third parties that are deemed critical) ▪ Determine a secondary location where business can resume if the main office (EOC) is unusable ▪ Back up and turn off server equipment if required ▪ Test run backup generators and top up fuels ▪ Test TMR Radios, Satellite Radio and VHF radios ▪ Confirm Fuel availability for First Responder vehicles ▪ Book rooms at local hotel for EMT members and for residents that may need accommodations after the storm. ▪ Disconnect electrical mains to buildings/ offices to avoid an electrical fire if required ▪ Communicate with everyone so that they know the storm is approaching, as well as safe evacuation routes away from the office
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Hurricane Response Guide

Step 3	<p><u>DURING THE STORM</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 12 hours prior to the storm arrival, EMT to activate the EOC, EMT members to respond to EOC for duty ▪ Observe the storm's movements from a safe place (EOC) using phones, TMR radio, radio and the internet, if possible ▪ Shelter in place and stay safe ▪ Support 911 calls – RCMP - EHS - Fire
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Step 4	<p><u>AFTER THE STORM</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue with the hurricane watch and pay attention to any warnings from local authorities ▪ Reach out to all employees and perform a status check – find out if your people are OK, if they need help, or if they can provide help to others ▪ Prepare communications to residents of Town and County with critical information ▪ Conduct storm impact damage assessment; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Municipal Infrastructure (Water/ Sewer/ Buildings/ Equipment) ▪ NSP Infrastructure ▪ TIR Roads/ Highways ▪ Bell/ Eastlink Telecommunications infrastructure ▪ Fuel (Gas Stations) ▪ Food vendors (Grocery) ▪ Develop Incident Action Plan (IAP) ▪ Restart Municipal operations once everyone is accounted for and safe to do so ▪ Offer support to all employees
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Tabletop Exercise “Forest Fire”

Scenario: It is May (Sunday May 21st) long weekend, Sunny day 25 C and it has not rained in the last week or so, Fire reported in wooded area in the James River Water shed location.

Exercise objectives

- Review DNRR Fire Behavior Forecast (Greg Kaiser)
- TMR Radio (Scott Fisher)
- Team discussion regarding inter-agency responsibilities
- Team Table-Top Exercise “Forest Fire” scenario

Participants

- Antigonish Town and County EMT members
- Antigonish RCMP (James Jessome, Warren Mcbeath)
- Antigonish EHS (Alex Bromley)
- Antigonish County VFD
- Pomquet VFD
- St. Andrews VFD
- DNRR
- Dept. Public Works
- St.F.X.U.

Regrets - Scott Fisher (Communications NS - TMR), George DeRabbie Four Valleys VFD, Johnny Duykers Tracadie VFD



Forest Fire – First Hour Response Guide

Step 1	<p>IMMEDIATE ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Confirm location and severity of the Fire ▪ Notify 911 – Fire, RCMP, EHS (DNRR) ▪ If in Forest (<i>wooded area</i>) notify Department of Natural Resources & Renewables (DNRR) ▪ Notify A.R.E.M.O. EMO Coordinator ▪ Notify C.A.O., Town and County
Step 2	<p>SECONDARY ACTIONS/ CONSIDERATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assess situation with respect to safety of personnel ▪ Identify Incident Commander (DNRR or VFD - Fire Chief) ▪ Isolate hazard area and deny entry ▪ Develop Incident Action Plan (IAP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Road closures ▪ Evacuation plan ▪ Establish Emergency Shelter ▪ Develop communication plan and share with public ▪ Identify location for Incident Command Post ▪ Activate AREMO EMT if required ▪ Declare state of local emergency if required (<i>To support road closure and evacuations</i>) ▪ Notify NS EMO if required ▪ Initiate other critical notifications as required

Critical Contacts:

- Fire/ RCMP/ EHS (Ambulance) – 911
- (R.C.M.P. Antigonish Office - 902-863-6500)
- (EHS – 1-888-885-8151/ Option 5 for Northeastern)
- DNRR - 902-863-4513 (Beech Hill Off. Mon. Fri.,8:30 – 4:30) (Depot 902-863-7340 weekends during fire season)
- C.A.O. Town - (o) 902-863-2351, (m) 902-870-6628
- C.A.O. County - (o) 902-863-1117, (m) 902-870-9315
- AREMO Coordinator (o) 902-863-1117, (m) 902-867-7152
- Nova Scotia EMO Duty Officer - 1-833-758-4540.

Hurricanes: Before, During & After



The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June to November. The best way to protect yourself and your family in case of a hurricane is to follow these steps:

- Identify a safe space on lower floors but not the basement; evacuate when instructed by authorities.
- Turn around, don't drown – avoid flood waters.
- Prepare for secondary risks such as flooding, landslides and damaged buildings.

Before

- The key to staying safe is to prepare and to have an [emergency plan](#) in place.
- Listen to local news and weather reports for any potential hurricane watches and warnings in your area.
- Find out if you live in an area where hurricanes could happen and sign up for local alerts.
- **Know the difference between a hurricane warning and a hurricane watch:**
 - A **hurricane warning** means a hurricane is already occurring or will occur soon in your area. Evacuate if advised to do so.
 - A **hurricane watch** means a hurricane is possible in your area. Stay alert for more information.
- Trim dead branches and cut down dead trees to reduce the danger of these falling onto your house.
- Secure everything on your property that can be blown around or torn loose.
- Secure windows and doors; move electronics and valuables away from breakable glass.
- If you live on the coast or in a low-lying area near the coast, be ready to move inland or to higher ground. High winds can create large waves, which may become storm surges when they reach the shore.
- Have your emergency kit ready. Families should be prepared to be self-sustaining for at least 3 three days. Kits should include practical items such as drinking water, food, cash, and a portable radio. However, they should also include items that are unique to your own families' needs. This could include baby items, medical prescriptions, pet food, etc.
- If you have already dipped into your emergency kit and food supply while staying at home, consider safely getting the supplies to replenish it following your local public health authorities' guidelines for leaving your residence.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic also add hygiene items such as hand sanitizer and non-medical masks to your kit to keep your family safe during an evacuation.

During

- Be prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice.
- Stay informed by listening to the latest warnings and advisories. Tune in to the radio or local news channels, and/or follow your local news outlet and emergency officials on social media. You can also find information on the [Canadian Hurricane Centre website](#).
- Turn around - don't drown! Avoid walking and driving through flooded areas.
- Never go out in a boat during a storm. If you are on the water and you see bad weather approaching, head for shore immediately. Do not go down to the water to watch the storm.
- Evacuate if advised by authorities or community leaders. Be careful to avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges.
- If the eye of the hurricane passes over, there will be a lull in the wind lasting from two or three minutes to half an hour. Stay in a safe place on the main floor but not in the basement during this time. Remember once the eye has passed over, the winds will return from the opposite direction.

After

Continue to take precautions and listen to and follow directions from local authorities.

- Tune in to the radio or local news channels, and/or follow your local news outlet and emergency officials on social media.
- Stay alert for extended rainfall and subsequent flooding even after the hurricane or tropical storm has ended.
- Be prepared for secondary disasters such as flooding, landslides and building damage.
- If you suspect your home is unsafe, do not enter. Rely on the professionals to clear your home for re-entry, if you are unsure.
- Stay away from damaged areas and fallen power lines. Watch out for debris such as sheet metal, glass or other sharp material.
- Do not use water that may have been contaminated. Throw out food that may have been contaminated, including from refrigerator and freezers.
- Wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt and sturdy shoes when cleaning up.
- Examine your walls, doors, staircases, and windows for damage.
- Take pictures of damage, both of the building and its contents, for insurance claims.
- Check with local authorities on how to properly dispose of damaged items from your home.
- Experiencing a disaster is challenging enough, but during the COVID-19 pandemic it can feel even more difficult. The Red Cross has many resources available to help you navigate these challenging times. You can also find mental and emotional wellbeing resources on the Public Health Agency of Canada, or any provincial/territorial health authority website.

A.R.E.M.O. - Comfort Centres & Emergency Shelters

Comfort Centre Association	Civic Address	Contact Name	Contact Detail
Antigonish Affordable Housing Society	12-5 Hope Lane, Antigonish, NS, B2G-0G4	Colleen Cameron	Phone: 902-318-9934 Email: accamero@stfx.ca
Antigonish Affordable Housing Society	25 Apple Seed Drive, Antigonish, NS, B2G-#B7	Colleen Cameron	Phone: 902-318-9934 Email: accamero@stfx.ca
Antigonish County V.F.D.	5 D-38 Road, Beech Hill, NS, B2G 2P9	Brendan MacInnis	Phone: 902-863-3305 Email: Chief@ACVFD.ca / bhmi@eastlink.ca
Antigonish Lions Club	13 Highland Drive, Antigonish, NS, B2G-3B1	Robert Cochrane	Phone: 902-338-1731 Email: robmcochrane@yahoo.ca
* Arisaig Parish Community Centre	5548 Hwy 245, Arisaig, NS, B2G 2L1	Theresa Thompson	Phone: 902-867-7071 (c)/ 902-863-1207 (h) Email: theresamacdthompson@gmail.com
Aulds Cove V.F.D.	13124 Highway 104, Aulds Cove, BOH 1P0	Daniel MacEachern	Phone: 902-631-4687 (c) Email: auldscovefire3053@gmail.com
Four Valleys V.F.D.	3331 Highway 245, Maryvale, NS, B2G 2L1	George DeRabbie	Phone: 902-735-2544 Email: capt.derabbie1@gmail.com
* Havre Boucher Community Centre	12401 Highway 4, Havre Boucher, NS, BOH 1R0	Hugh O'Neil	Phone: 902-234-3498 Email:
Heatherton Development & Cultural Wellness Centre	42 Summerside Road, Heatherton, NS, BOH 1R0	Malcolm MacKinnon	Phone: 902-386-2678 Email: maliemac131@gmail.com
Lochaber Community Development Association (Lochaber Centre)	1999 Highway 7, North Lochaber, NS, B2G 2L3	Glenn Ferris	Phone: 902-703-2203 (w) Email: cgforestry@gmail.com
* Mini Trail Community Centre Association	4382 Highway 337, Lakevale, NS, B2G 2L2	Carroll MacPherson	Phone: 902-870-3276 (c)/ 902-863-2816 (h) Email: carrollmacpherson@hotmail.com
* North Shore V.F.D.	432 Marsh Road, Ballantynes Cove, NS, B2G 2L2	Kristen MacEachern	Phone: 902-870-8222 Email: northshorevfd@gmail.com
Paqtnkek First Nation	136 Afton Loop, Paqtnkek-Niutuek 23, NS, BOH 1A0	Darlene Paul	Phone: 902-870-0656 (c)/ 902-386-2781 ext. 2228 (w) Email: darlene.paul@paqtnkek.ca
Pomquet V.F.D.	1180 Monk's Head Road, Antigonish, NS, B2G 2L4	Pierre Venedam	Phone: 902-386-2743 (h)/ 902-867-0903 (c) Email: pielizfire@eastlink.ca
* St. Andrews District Community Centre	81 Pomquet River Road, St. Andrews, NS, BOH 1X0	Jackie MacDonald	Phone: 902-968-1082 Email: JMacDonald@scottandstewart.com
St. Joseph's Lakeside Community Centre	2752 Ohio East Road, Antigonish, NS, B2G 2K8	Amy Rhynold	Phone: 902-714-5733 Email: TheRhynolds@outlook.com
Strait Area Ground Search and Rescue Hall	10474 Highway 4, Monastery, NS, BOH 1W0	Cecil Cashin/ Ken McChesney	Phone: 902-870-5412/ 902-867-0470 Email: ccashin.cashin372@gmail.com
Tracadie & District V.F.D.	995 Highway 16, Monastery, NS, BOH 1W0	Johnny Duykers	Phone: 902-870-2381 Email: jduykers@ns.sympatico.ca

Primary
Emergency
Shelter

Comfort Centre Association	Civic Address	Contact Name	Contact Detail
Antigonish Arena	30 James Street, Antigonish, NS, B2G 1R7	Brendan Doyle	Phone: (o) 902-863-1469, (c) 902-870-0861 Email: Antigonish.arena@ns.sympatico.ca
Antigonish Farmers Market	30 James Street, Antigonish, NS, B2G 1R7	Annette Tarrant	Phone: 902-867-7479 (w) Email: manager@antigonishfarmersmarket.ca
* CACL/ Royal Canadian Legion	75 St Ninian St, Antigonish, NS, B2G 1R6	Alex Cameron	Phone: 902-318-3002 (c) Email: legion59a@gmail.com
* Club 60 Antigonish	121 Main Street, Antigonish, NS, B2G 253 (121 Frank McGibbon Lane, Antigonish, NS B2G 2B6)	John P. MacEachern	Phone: 902-870-2468 Email: Johnpierremac@hotmail.com
* Antigonish Town & County Library	283 Main Street, Antigonish, NS, B2G 2C3	Kristel Fleuren-Hunter	Phone: 902-863-2486 (w)/ 902-971-0979 (c)/ 902-863-5110 (h) Email: kfhunter@parl.ns.ca

Agreement
being
worked

AREMO Region;
23 - Comfort Centres
1 - Primary Emergency Shelter

Thank You

Questions?