



# IAIN RANKIN

MLA Timberlea-Prospect

  [www.ianrankin.ca](http://www.ianrankin.ca)

SPRING 2016

NEWSLETTER

Dear Constituents:

It is my pleasure to provide you with another constituency update. As one of the youngest MLAs in the legislature, I am pleased to see Nova Scotia leading the country in reducing youth unemployment. This is just one of many signs that our economy is growing again.

The Province has restricted the growth of spending, while investing in strategic sector-development, public education and health care. The tough decisions made over the last two years, in order to move the province forward on a sustainable path, resulted in more capacity to invest in modernizing health care, smaller class sizes, early intervention programming, subsidized child care, and funding to help the most vulnerable Nova Scotians. These investments all demonstrate what is possible when we stick to a plan and work together to build a stronger Nova Scotia.

I continue to work with several departments to help build and grow Timberlea-Prospect. Over the last two years our own local infrastructure and schools have received significant funding. The 2016/17 budget again includes targeted investments to make a difference in our communities. I appreciate this opportunity to share the development of the recent projects I have been working on. I have also listed some of the upcoming local events you have shared with me on the back of the newsletter.

I look forward to seeing everyone in the community this summer at events, and at your doorstep!

Best Regards,

Iain Rankin

## Budget 2016/17 highlights

**A balanced budget and a fiscal plan to keep Nova Scotia's finances balanced.**

- \$14.4 million more for home support and nursing, and the caregiver benefit and wheelchair programs
- \$3 million to help seniors pay for Pharmacare costs
- \$6.4 million more to reduce class sizes
- \$9.9 million more for the Disability Support Program
- \$6.6 million to subsidize child care spaces, including increased wage grants for early childhood educators
- \$3.6 million more to expand the Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention program to meet the needs of pre-schoolers with autism preparing to enter school
- \$11.5 million to support women at risk
- \$7.5 million more to increase Income Assistance

## E-Mail Newsletter

Receive the latest news and information about our community and my work as your representative by signing up for my e-mail newsletter. Sign up today at my website [www.ianrankin.ca](http://www.ianrankin.ca) or by scanning the QR code on the right.





*At Otter Lake Landfill*

### **Bill 176: Otter Lake Landfill Act**

HRM had recently submitted an application to increase the size of cell #6 at the Otter Lake landfill. The province did not approve the planned extension, based on an exhaustive list of requirements not being met, including public consultation with the local community. In the spring legislative session that just concluded, I introduced a Private and Local Bill in order to give unquestionable certainty to the community on the agreed upon size of Halifax Regional Municipality's landfill. Bill 176 enshrines into legislation the number of cells, and the height of the cells. I appreciate the sign of support from the Councillors of the affected communities, and the Community Monitoring Committee, who all appeared at the Private and Local Bills Committee. Bill 176 has passed, and the community can now expect the Otter Lake landfill to close, once the agreed upon footprint reaches capacity.



*At Otter Lake Landfill*

### **Prospect Road Upgrades**

A multi-year project will begin this year along the Prospect Rd (Highway 333). The first three intersections beginning near the entrance closest to Halifax will be completed, including adjacent to the Irving Service Station, this year, with planning for more in the future. I remain committed to doing everything I can to improve the safety and traffic flow along this important highway.



*Prospect Road by Irving Gas station*

### **Capped Class Sizes**

The Province is continuing to reduce class sizes this year. Over 380 teachers have been hired over the last two years. Grades Primary to 2 are now capped at 20 students and Grades 3 and 4 are capped at 25. Grades 5 and 6 will now be capped at 25.

The latest investment completes capping class sizes for all elementary grades and is expected to create about 88 teaching positions across the province in the upcoming year.

### **Child Care Access and Affordability**

A child care report was released on March 31, which outlines the challenges for the system and recommendations to improve it. The review examined the strengths and areas of concern in the sector and makes 18 recommendations in the areas of accessibility of child care for families, affordability of child care programs, quality of programming, support and development of the workforce, and structure and governance of the system. The Minister has accepted all recommendations, and the Province is beginning to act on the recommendations in the latest budget. The 2016/17 budget invests \$6.6 million to subsidize childcare spaces, increase wage grants for early childhood educators, and support childcare centres in providing inclusive programming.



*Visited local child care centre with Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage*

## VG/QEII Redevelopment Plan

The Nova Scotia Health Authority announced plans on April 21, to address the aging Victoria General Hospital (VG) site of the QEII Health Sciences Centre in Halifax. Services will gradually be moved out of the Centennial and Victoria buildings to locations that will improve access to health care.

Some of the changes will include:

- transferring the most complex and specialized services (e.g., organ transplant) from the VG site to the Halifax Infirmiry site of the QEII
- construction of a new space for a specialized outpatient centre that must remain close, or even connected, to the existing Halifax Infirmiry building
- development of a community outpatient centre for services that do not need to be delivered in a hospital setting
- moving five palliative care beds from the VG site to a planned 10-bed residential hospice in Halifax
- expanding the Dartmouth General Hospital inpatient and surgical capacity to include four additional operating rooms and 48 beds. This project is now in the detailed design phase.
- enhancing and expanding the Nova Scotia Cancer Centre
- performing more surgeries by re-opening a second operating room at Hants Community Hospital in Windsor and explore using Scotia Surgery services more



This is a complex undertaking with many parts. The goal is to complete this work while causing the least amount of disruption to care. The overall project timeline is between five and seven years; however, services will begin to be relocated in late 2016. The overall cost estimate will be determined once additional planning stages are complete. The renovations and expansion at the Dartmouth General Hospital will cost between \$132 million and \$138 million.

## Recent Events



*Bernadette Jordan meeting residents at the Prospect Road Community Centre*



*Community Breakfast at Timberlea Beverage Room*



*Congratulating Jack Mitchell on his 80th birthday*



*BLT Spring Fair*



*With Cassidy Megan  
1st Purple Hike for Epilepsy*



*Welcoming Syrian Refugees with Halifax Police Chief Blais*



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## SS Atlantic Interpretation Centre

(Shipwreck Museum and Craft Shop) will open Saturday May 21 through October 31 daily 10:00 AM –5:00 PM

## Beechville, Lakeside, Timberlea (BLT) Community Garden Opening and BBQ

May 28, 11:00 AM till 2:00 PM

Garden beds still available – only \$10 Each  
1492 St Margarets Bay Road, Lakeside.

For more information, 902-876-8812 or  
[bltcommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:bltcommunitygarden@gmail.com)

Office hours at Lakeside Community Centre  
Mon-Fri 8:30 AM-4:30 PM and Saturdays 9 AM-Noon.  
Gardeners can also pay by phone with a credit card.  
We still have plenty of beds available and, as always, first come, first served.

## May Fair in the Park

May 29, 12 Noon - 3:00 PM

Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust invites you to attend its annual May Fair in the Park on Sunday, May 29 at Jerry Lawrence Park, Lewis Lake. Join the Trust for children's games, face painting, BBQ and a scavenger hunt lead by the Indian Point Young Naturalists. Children will have a chance to win prizes and tour fire trucks, while the grownups learn about the many community organizations working to enhance our community.

## The Resource Opportunities Centre Friday Feast

June 3, July 8, August 5 – 5:00 PM-6:30 PM

Enjoy monthly Community Meals at the Prospect Road Community Centre! Nutritious, home made meals, using local ingredients whenever possible. Gluten free, vegetarian & take out options are always available. A suggested donation of \$7 per person, or pay-what-you-can.

## Prospect Road Recreation Association AGM

May 30, 7:00 PM at Prospect Road Community Centre

## Route 333 Refugee Sponsorship Association Fundraiser

Sunday, June 5 - Join the communities of Prospect to raise funds to sponsor and welcome a Syrian Refugee Family. The afternoon will be filled with food, fun, music & celebration. Check [www.route333refugee.com](http://www.route333refugee.com) or on Facebook, Route 333 Refugee Sponsorship Association.

## Annual Warbler Walk

Sunday, June 5 at 7:00 AM

The Annual Warbler Walk organized by Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust and led by well-known birder Hans Toom will take place on Sunday, June 5 at the Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park, Lewis Lake. For more information contact Hans Toom : [htoom@eastlink.ca](mailto:htoom@eastlink.ca) or Harry Ward : [harryward@eastlink.ca](mailto:harryward@eastlink.ca)

## The Resource Opportunities Centre AGM

June 13, 6:30 PM at the Prospect Road Community Centre

## Summer Camps at the Prospect Road Community Centre

Details coming to [www.centre.prospectcommunities.com](http://www.centre.prospectcommunities.com)



## BLT Canada Day

Friday July 1 - Visit [www.blttoday.ca](http://www.blttoday.ca) for more information

## Blessing of the Boats

Sunday July 24 at 2:30 PM at the SS Atlantic Shipwreck Museum. Blessings will take place at the monument on land and in the water for all kinds of boats. Reception at Fire Hall afterwards. All welcome.

## Fun in the Fog

August 21 at 3:00 PM. Enjoy the music of McGinty on the dock at East Coast Outfitters in Lower Prospect. Come by land or sea! For more information visit [www.eastcoastoutfitters.com](http://www.eastcoastoutfitters.com)

## Terence Bay Lighthouse Day

September 11, 1:00 PM-3:00 PM at the end of Sandy Cove Road. Everyone welcome!

## Estabrooks Community Hall BINGO

Cash Bingo, every Sunday night except holidays.  
Doors open at 6:00 PM, Minis start at 6:20 PM,  
Regular bingo at 7:00 PM.  
Canteen operated by 250 Vimy Air Cadets.  
For information call 405-6511.



PLEASE RECYCLE

Due to the delivery routes followed by Canada Post, it is possible that some of these newsletters may appear in other Constituencies. Please accept my apologies for any confusion.