



PUBLIC STATEMENT - Office of the Mayor
August 7, 2025

As Mayor of the Town of Truro, I want to express our Council's strong support for the Province of Nova Scotia's decision to end its relationship with the Nova Scotia Firefighters School. This is a necessary and overdue step toward protecting the safety of all firefighters across the province.

We continue to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of former Truro Fire Service firefighter, Skyler Blackie, who tragically lost his life during a training exercise in 2019. No firefighter or family should ever experience such a loss. As this process moves forward, we keep the Blackie family in our thoughts, and we recognize the strength and perseverance they have shown in pushing for change.

The audit released on August 5th confirmed what many have feared for years. There are serious issues with safety, accountability, and oversight at the school. Firefighters deserve better. They deserve proper, consistent, and safe training that prepares them to serve our communities.

The Town of Truro welcomes the Province's commitment to a new path forward, including the interim training plan and the formation of a steering committee. We also believe this must lead to a long-term, province-wide training model that serves all municipalities in Nova Scotia.

We are asking the Province to:

1. Develop a new training program that is modern, accountable, and publicly delivered. This could possibly be through Nova Scotia's community college system or another provincial institution.
2. Work closely with municipalities and fire services in building this model, ensuring that both career and volunteer firefighters receive the same high-quality training.
3. Ensure strong oversight and safety standards, with regular audits and input from those working on the front lines.

This is a moment of real opportunity. We need to make sure what comes next is built on safety, transparency, and respect for the firefighters who selflessly put themselves at risk every day to protect us.

The Town of Truro is ready to be part of this work, and we thank the Province for taking this important step forward.

Mayor Cathy Hinton
Town of Truro