



Town of Small Point to Adams Cove

What We Heard - Town Hall #2 Meeting Summary

The second recovery town hall was held on November 2, 2025, bringing together 68 participants (48 in person and 20 online). This session brought together representatives from the Town Council, North Shore Volunteer Fire Department (NSVFD), Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services (NLHS), and the RCMP to provide updates and discuss various elements of the community's safety and security following the 2025 wildfires.

Presentations

The *Town* highlighted the closing and achievements of the Salem Welcome Centre, which served as a central hub for basic support for 65 days upon re-entry. Additionally, the Town Council introduced their recovery structure that will support planning, coordination, and implementation of recovery work through collaborative committees and working groups.

The *NSVFD* thanked the community and partner agencies for their support. With assistance from over 30 fire services, the department has nearly restored operations, with ongoing work to address remaining equipment shortages.

The *NL Health Services* provided an overview of common responses and effects to individuals after an event. They emphasized what to watch out for, when to seek additional help, and offered an overview of available resources. Both the Town and the NSVFD acknowledged the need for ongoing wellbeing support for community members and encouraged people to utilize services.

The *RCMP* spoke to the community about the active ongoing investigations into the fires and property crime in the area. They provided statistics on crime activity, and insight into the capacity and ongoing work of the RCMP. They acknowledged some communication and resource challenges and committed to reviewing procedures, improving coordination, and maintaining transparency.

Community Feedback

Concerns About Property Safety

Residents raised concerns about thefts and unauthorized access to properties during and after the evacuation, describing the experience as unsettling. Residents suggested more visible policing and clearer security protocols for evacuated areas and emphasized the need for stronger protective measures in future emergencies. In response, the RCMP noted that the Auxiliary RCMP program is being revived, which should help increase community presence and visibility. Residents were also encouraged to take an active role in community safety through measures like improved lighting, security and doorbell cameras, AirTags, secure fencing, and neighborhood watch initiatives.

Participants also inquired about ways the community could support or advocate for law enforcement to help strengthen local capacity and enhance preparedness for future emergencies.

Investigations and Recovery

Participants asked about ongoing criminal investigations, including whether arrests had been made before or after the fires and whether any stolen property had been recovered. There was an interest in understanding investigation progress and outcomes. Some questioned how to prevent repeat incidents and noted concerns about individuals being released shortly after arrest. The RCMP noted that investigations into the fires and thefts remain active and emphasized their openness to continued engagement with residents who may have information.

Communication

Participants emphasized the importance of timely and consistent communication from officials regarding wildfire causes, investigation updates, and overall emergency response. Some noted that communication gaps during and after the fires created uncertainty and confusion about the situation. Officials acknowledged these challenges and indicated their intention to improve coordination and share updates more regularly.

Early Fire Events and Rebuilding Trust

Residents wanted greater transparency around how investigation and resource deployment decisions are made. They sought clarity on how earlier fires in May were investigated, whether they were treated as serious threats, and why additional resources were not deployed, reflecting a sense of disappointment in the RCMP and a feeling that their concerns had not been fully addressed. These sentiments indicated the need to rebuild trust between the community and responding agencies, emphasizing the desire for more transparency and accountability. Officials noted that they are doing an internal review about the situation and reiterated that the earlier incidents are also included in the ongoing investigation. They also acknowledged the community's need for clearer information about decision-making processes.

Closing Note

The Council also highlighted upcoming community initiatives including the Stand on Guard Once More streaming event at the Salem Centre on Nov 10th, recruitment for the advisory and working groups, an upcoming impact and needs assessment mid-November, and planning towards additional social and recovery programs.

The meeting closed with commitments to continue reviewing the wildfire response, strengthen coordination among agencies, and keep residents informed. Ongoing investigations and community engagement remain priorities as recovery and prevention efforts move forward.

The Council appreciates everyone who attended and shared their input. Feedback from town halls is essential to recovery, helping to identify community needs, shape priorities, and guide the Town's ongoing planning efforts.