



Town of Small Point to Adams Cove

What We Heard - Town Hall #4 Meeting Summary

Introduction

The fourth Town Hall was held on February 12, 2025, with 55 participants (35 in person and 20 online).

The afternoon began with a Town update on recovery progress. The Town shared key updates and current priorities. Most of the meeting was focused on bringing the community together to share, listen, and discuss recovery. Residents joined small group conversations based on the Town's recovery priorities - the three Working Groups represent: housing and community infrastructure, social and community wellbeing, and public safety and environment.

These small group discussions gave residents the chance to speak directly with the Town's newly formed Recovery Working Groups and Council. People shared their experiences, concerns, and ideas for moving forward.

This format was designed to support open conversation and ensure that recovery planning reflects the voices of the community. What was heard will help guide the Working Groups as they continue to develop plans and actions. Recovery initiatives will continue to be shaped by the people who live here.

Recovery Updates

The Town shared updates on ongoing meetings with the Provincial Recovery Cabinet Committee. There has been positive discussion about urgent priorities, including temporary housing, mental health supports, and the loss of Cabot Elementary School.

A new Town website has launched with updated recovery information, easier navigation, and details about town events.

Three recovery staff positions have now been filled: Recovery Coordinator (Lori Moss), Social Programming Coordinator (Tammy Crowley), and Recovery Assistant (Cassie Kelloway). This team will help coordinate and support ongoing recovery work.

The North Shore Strong benefit concert was held on February 8 at the Princess Sheila NaGeira Theatre. Approximately \$10,000 was raised for the Community Foundations of Newfoundland and Labrador (CFNL) to support ongoing recovery in the North Shore. The event was well attended and brought the community together through music and fun. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported!

Housing and Community Infrastructure

Housing remains an urgent concern for many residents. This includes both temporary housing and permanent rebuilding.

Community members shared several barriers that are slowing down repairs and rebuilding:

- Insurance limits and policy challenges
- Problems with legal documents and land assessments
- High costs for materials and contractor services
- A lack of affordable rental housing

Some residents are worried that financial support will not be enough to bridge the gaps they're experiencing with the cost of rebuilding. There is also concern that if delays continue, some people may decide not to return.

Possible options discussed included:

- Temporary trailers or housing units for displaced residents
- Modular or multi-unit homes
- Reusing or repurposing existing buildings
- Housing options for seniors and aging residents
- Incentives to encourage contractors to work in the area

Residents said continued work with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and other partners is important to help speed up rebuilding and create both short-term and long-term housing solutions.

There was also discussion about community infrastructure. Some residents suggested adding water storage towers or other water access points to support firefighting in the future. Note: water and hydrants for active fires have been discussed in the Public Safety & Environment working group.

Social and Community Wellbeing

Social connection and mental health were important topics in the discussions.

Many residents shared that they felt separated from their community and social groups. This is true both for people who are not currently living in the North Shore area, and those still living in the community who feel less connected because fewer people are around. Some people said it has been hard to meet others or rebuild social networks.

While seniors are a priority, residents felt there were limited activities for youth and middle-aged adults.

Some ideas shared included:

- Exercise and wellness groups
- Crafting and creative workshops
- Board games and social nights
- Gardening projects
- Book clubs

Residents want more opportunities to come together, rebuild connections, and support one another. Intergenerational connection was discussed as one approach for the community.

Mental health supports are available, but barriers remain. Some people are concerned about stigma or being judged. Others do not want to be recognized when accessing services. There are also challenges in finding services that match personal preferences, such as virtual or in-person options.

Residents said that increasing awareness, education, and peer support could help people feel more comfortable reaching out for help.

Public Safety and Environment

Community safety continues to be a top concern.

Residents spoke about the challenges of living in a remote and isolated area. Some feel far from emergency services and resources. While there is a sense that responses can feel reactive, people were encouraged by the recent announcement of increased RCMP patrols in the area.

There was discussion about ways to improve fire safety. Building or renovating homes with fire-resistant materials could help, but high costs may make this difficult without financial support. Residents also raised the need to consider people with mobility challenges when planning safety improvements.

Environmental changes are still very visible in the community. Burned trees, shrubs, and plants remain across the landscape. Residents also noted changes in wildlife patterns, including more coyotes in the area.

Ideas to improve safety included brush cutting and creating fire breaks. Residents also raised concerns about possible flooding and discussed new ways to collect and store water for future firefighting efforts.

Closing

Town Hall #4 brought the community together to share, listen, and learn from one another. The conversations were open and thoughtful. Residents shared both concerns and ideas for moving forward.

The Town and Recovery Working Groups will use what was heard to guide next steps. Ongoing community engagement will remain an important part of recovery.