



Town of Small Point to Adams Cove

What We Heard - Town Hall #6 Meeting Summary

Date: April 9th, 2026

Introduction

The 6th Town Hall was held on April 9th, 2026 with 40 participants (15 people in person and 25 online) to provide residents with an update on recovery efforts following the 2025 wildfires. The purpose of the Town Hall was to reflect on progress made to date, share key updates on programs and supports, and introduce elements of the Town's developing Recovery Plan.

The Town highlighted several recent community initiatives that have supported social recovery, including local events, volunteer efforts, and ongoing weekly programs aimed at reconnecting residents. Updates were also provided on major developments such as the extension of housing supports through Newfoundland and Labrador Housing until September 30th, 2026, plans for the rebuilding of Cabot Academy are anticipated to begin sometime in 2027, improvements to policing services, and the securing of funding from Community Wildfire Prevention & Mitigation Program for the the creation of a resiliency plan.

The Town explained that recovery is not limited to rebuilding physical structures, but also includes restoring emotional well-being, strengthening community connections, rebuilding infrastructure, and improving long-term resilience. The Town emphasized that while considerable progress has been made—particularly in stabilization, cleanup, and planning—recovery remains a long-term process that will take years to fully complete.

The Town introduced The Recovery Plan (being finalized) - built on extensive community engagement, data collection, and collaboration with external experts and partner organizations. The plan is organized around three key priority areas: Social and Community Well-being, Housing and Community Infrastructure, and Public Safety and Environment. These areas guide the Town's approach to rebuilding in a way that is safer, stronger, and more sustainable for the future.

The Town also emphasized that recovery will not be the same for every resident. Individual circumstances vary widely, particularly in relation to housing and financial capacity, and therefore solutions will need to be flexible and tailored. Residents were encouraged to participate in housing surveys, connect with available supports, such as Red Cross case management, and remain engaged in future Town Halls and community initiatives.

The session concluded with an open question-and-answer period, where residents raised important concerns—particularly regarding housing, repairs, funding, and recovery timelines. These discussions highlighted both the progress made and the challenges that remain.

Questions & Answers *(asked in-person and online)*

What Support is Available for Residents Without Insurance?

Question:

A resident asked whether losing their home without insurance means they will not be able to return or rebuild in the community.

Answer:

Council acknowledged this as one of the most difficult and complex challenges facing the community. There is no single solution that applies to all residents. Instead, multiple options are being explored, including:

- Potential partnerships with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and Mennonite Disaster Services
- Programs and supports through Newfoundland and Labrador Housing
- Additional funding opportunities and recovery initiatives

It was emphasized that each case will be assessed individually, and the Town's goal is to support residents in remaining within the community wherever possible. However, solutions are still being developed and will take time.

Town Hall 5 focused entirely on insurance ([see the What We Heard report with Q&A here](#)), and residents are strongly encouraged to visit the Town's [website](#) to review all available information related to insurance, including supports for both insured and uninsured residents.

How Will Housing Assistance Be Determined?

Question:

How will it be determined who qualifies for housing assistance if organizations such as Habitat for Humanity become involved?

Answer:

The Town clarified that discussions with Habitat for Humanity and Mennonite Disaster Services are still in the very early stages, and no formal agreements have been made. As a result, eligibility criteria have not yet been established. It is expected that future decisions will consider:

- Individual needs and circumstances

- Financial situations
- Information gathered through surveys and case management

Privacy considerations limit the sharing of personal information, so decisions will be based on combined data and assessed needs rather than publicly shared details.

Will Housing Surveys Influence Support Decisions?

Question:

Will the housing surveys being conducted play a role in determining supports and eligibility?

Answer:

Yes. Surveys conducted by Newfoundland and Labrador Housing, along with those from the Town's housing working group, are critical tools for identifying the needs of residents. These surveys will help inform decision-making, prioritize supports, and guide the development of programs and partnerships.

Who Qualifies for CFNL Funding?

Question:

Who is eligible for funding from the Community Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador (CFNL), and how will eligible residents be identified, contacted, and receive funding?

Answer:

Funding from the Community Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador (CFNL) will be distributed to residents who have lost their primary residence, regardless of insurance status. Eligible individuals will be identified through verified data provided by the Red Cross. CFNL will then contact those residents directly and ask them to complete a questionnaire. Funding will be distributed based on the information collected, ensuring an organized, fair, and equitable process that targets those most impacted.

What Stage is the Town in the Recovery Process?

Question:

Where does the Town currently stand in the recovery process?

Answer:

The Town is transitioning from the assessment and planning phase into the implementation phase. While significant progress has been made in cleanup, stabilization, and planning, many initiatives are only now beginning to move into action. Recovery is expected to take several years, and residents were encouraged to remain patient as work continues. Residents are encouraged to follow the [Town's Facebook page](#) and [Recovery Info Hub](#) website for ongoing updates.

What Does “Fuel” Mean in Wildfire Discussions?

Question:

Residents asked for clarification on the term “fuel” in relation to wildfire risk.

Answer:

“Fuel” refers to materials such as trees, brush, and vegetation that can burn. Even after a wildfire, partially burned trees and debris can still pose a risk for future fires. This is why mitigation efforts, including cleanup and planning, are important to reduce future hazards.

What are the Overall Housing Concerns?

Question:

Residents expressed general concern about whether realistic and timely housing solutions will be available, particularly for those facing financial or insurance barriers.

Answer:

The Town acknowledged that housing remains the most significant and complex issue in recovery. Efforts are ongoing to identify solutions through partnerships, funding programs, and advocacy. It was emphasized that recovery will involve multiple approaches rather than a single solution, and that progress is being made, although it may take time to fully address all needs.

What are the Water/Soil Testing & Rollout of Activities?

Question:

Will there be additional water and soil testing, including spot testing, and will it involve collaboration with Newfoundland and Labrador (NL)?

Answer:

Yes, additional testing is planned and actively being discussed. The town is looking into further rounds of water testing, including continued enhanced testing of municipal water and targeted spot testing in areas where there may be higher risk, such as properties with shallow wells. There are also plans to include soil testing, as residents have raised concerns about possible contamination and whether the soil remains suitable for growing after the wildfire. This work will involve collaboration with provincial water resources in Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as external organizations that can assist with residential spot testing. These efforts are expected to begin rolling out in the spring as conditions improve. Overall, testing will be targeted based on need and risk, rather than conducted uniformly across every property.

Question:

When will residents start to see more activities rolled out, and what will that rollout look like?

Answer:

Residents can expect to start seeing more activities in the coming weeks, beginning with community programs and local initiatives focused on social connection and well-being. At the same time, the town is transitioning from the planning phase into implementation, with the recovery plan currently in its final stages of approval. Early actions will include a community activity calendar, free programs for all ages, and initial work on resiliency planning and updates to emergency response plans. Larger initiatives, such as infrastructure improvements, safety measures, and environmental work, will follow once the recovery plan is approved and will depend on available funding and partnerships.

Question:

Why does the rollout feel slow, and what is happening behind the scenes?

Answer:

While progress is being made, the pace can feel slow because much of the work is happening behind the scenes. The recovery plan is still being finalized and coordinated across multiple partners, and many of the larger initiatives require provincial funding and formal approvals before they can move forward. At the same time, the town is actively advocating with the provincial government and meeting with various departments and agencies to secure the resources needed to support recovery efforts. Some initiatives are already in development but cannot be publicly announced until funding and agreements are confirmed. In the short term, residents will see smaller, community-based activities begin to roll out, while larger recovery efforts will follow in phases as approvals and funding are secured.

Closing Summary

Residents can expect to begin seeing more activities rolling out followed by larger actions once the town's recovery plan is officially approved internally by the Recovery Committee and Town Council. The plan outlines longer-term projects and priorities, many of which depend on securing funding and partnerships.

The Town Hall highlighted both the significant progress made since the wildfire and the challenges that remain ahead. While the community has successfully moved through initial stabilization and into the planning phase, the next stage of implementation will be critical in delivering tangible results. The town continues ongoing advocacy with the provincial government to secure the resources needed to advance these larger initiatives.

The Town reaffirmed its commitment to transparency, collaboration, and supporting residents through every stage of recovery. Residents are encouraged to remain engaged, utilize available supports, and continue participating in shaping the future of the community as recovery efforts move forward.

To ensure information is accessible to everyone, especially those not using Facebook, the town will expand communication through printed materials. Posters and updates will be available at the town office and in local shops, helping keep all residents informed.