

Media Release

May 4, 2022



Ground broken for new SPCA in North Nova *Nova Scotia SPCA announces the Sharon & Elmer MacKay Building*

Stellarton, Nova Scotia – With paws digging into the dirt, the Nova Scotia SPCA has broken ground on its new North Nova location. Animals and families in the regions of Pictou, Antigonish, Port Hawkesbury, and Guysborough Counties will soon have a new hub to turn to in times of need.

At over 43 years old, the Pictou shelter located at 3504 Granton Road, has helped save animals and create families for decades. But it is time for a change.

“Our current facility does not reflect the quality of care the animals receive or have the capacity to offer all the Nova Scotia SPCA programs,” says Elizabeth Murphy, CEO of the Nova Scotia SPCA. “Since the shelter was originally built, there have been advances in animal welfare and demand for our services. The new North Nova building will allow us to meet the needs of more animals and families.”

A capital campaign is underway with Marsha Sobey as the Chair. “I am proud and honoured to chair the campaign for the new home of the North Nova SPCA. It takes a team of dedicated community members who share a passion to build this new facility for our animal friends.”

Kicking off the fundraising is lifelong Pictou County resident, former Member of Parliament the Hon. Elmer MacKay, and his wife, Sharon MacKay. In recognition of their commitment, the Nova Scotia SPCA will be naming the new North Nova facility the *Sharon & Elmer MacKay Building*. It is an honour that the MacKay’s humbly accept.

“I am very proud of the work that generations of the MacKay family have done in Pictou County,” says Elmer MacKay. Sharon agrees that it is nice, “but we would be just as excited about this project and would pass by the building proud of our work to make it happen, even if our name wasn’t on it.” Both animal lovers who have had dogs, but now live with cats, the MacKays are very fond of animals and wanted to give back to the community, with Elmer noting that not only will the new SPCA be good for animals and families but will also bring jobs to the region.

Marsha Sobey is grateful for Sharon and Elmer MacKay’s generosity but acknowledges there is a lot of fundraising left to do. Marsha, and campaign co-chair and local philanthropist Steve Smith have recruited an incredible committee for the campaign. “I want to thank the North

Nova fundraising committee volunteers who are integral to making this facility, and all the wonderful work that comes with it, happen,” says Sobey. This building is for the community, by the community and I invite all the residents of North Nova to learn more about the services that the SPCA offers and how everyone can contribute to the build."

A \$2.5M project, the building will house a shelter, a veterinary hospital, SPCA Thrift Store, an animal enforcement office, and programming space. The land, in the Albion Business Park in Stellarton, was donated to the Nova Scotia SPCA by the Stellarton Town Council in 2020.

“Stellarton Council is very excited to welcome the SPCA to our Albion Business Park,” says Mayor Danny MacGillivray. “This new development will benefit the community in a wide variety of ways. The central location will not only draw visitors from Pictou, Antigonish, and Colchester counties to our business park but to our main street and local businesses as well. A larger facility with veterinarian services and retail space will grow job opportunities and increase overall shelter space, allowing more animals to find their forever homes. We can’t wait to see the SPCA’s vision come to life in our town!”

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About the Nova Scotia SPCA

Proudly following no-kill principles, the Nova Scotia SPCA is a registered charity that helps companion animals in need. Every year, approximately 15,000 pets are helped through animal rescue, progressive programs, and rehoming opportunities. They do not receive any government funding for their shelters, so the SPCA relies on community support to help care for local pets in need. To learn more visit www.novascotiaspca.ca.

Media Contact:

Sarah Lyon
Director, Marketing & Communications
902-229-8620
media@spcans.ca

Available for Interviews:

Marsha Sobey, Campaign Chair
Hon. Elmer MacKay & Sharon MacKay, Donors
Elizabeth Murphy, CEO, Nova Scotia SPCA
Danny MacGillivray, Mayor, Town of Stellarton

Enclosed:

For pictures and video: <https://bit.ly/NorthNovaSPCA>

North Nova Fact Sheet

Building Rendering

Floor Plan