

Guiding Principles for Community Development in Nova Scotia

The government of Nova Scotia is committed to the values we share – our quality of life, the importance of volunteers and the need for partnerships to keep our communities strong and sustainable.

1. Local Leadership

The community plays the leadership role in its own development.

2. Government Support

Government actively facilitates and supports community development through the provision of information, expertise, guidance, and other resources as appropriate.

3. Collaborative Approach

Community development builds on cooperation, coordination, and collaboration between Government and communities.

4. Balance

Community development builds on a balanced approach that addresses and integrates economic, social, environmental, and cultural considerations.

5. Respect for Local Values

Government strives to understand and respect community values.

6. Social Inclusion

All community members, regardless of gender, age, disability, race, culture, language, or social and economic status have the opportunity to become engaged in the community development process and are able to access its social and economic benefits.

7. Transparency and Accountability

Government involvement in community development encourages transparency, accountability, participation and evidence-based decision making.

8. Partnerships and Shared Interests

Community development engages the necessary partners at the community and government levels.

9. Common Vision

Community members and government define a common vision for the future.

10. Focus on Community Assets

Community development is built on existing community capacity and assets.

11. Volunteerism

Community development values, respects, nurtures and encourages volunteerism.