

NORTHERN ZONE

Alternative Transportation Options

The list below includes government and charitable foundation programs aimed at lowering transportation costs for Nova Scotians, as well as transportation providers Public Health partnered with to provide transportation services during the Transportation Pilot.

The list below is not exhaustive of the transportation options that may be available in your area. Please visit https://ns.211.ca/ or call 211 for additional transportation options that may be available to you.

Boarding, Transportation and Ostomy Program

Provides funding help for the following:

- Transportation costs if you use a personal vehicle, bus, shuttle or community transportation service to travel from your home to the treatment centre
- Boarding and transportation costs for a travel companion if your doctor determines that a companion is essential.

Eligibility requirements:

- Are a resident of Nova Scotia.
- Have a valid Nova Scotia Health Card (the card can't be expired).
- Are receiving treatment (chemotherapy, radiation or surgery) for cancer at a treatment centre.
- Have a combined family income of $35,000 or less.
- Are not eligible for coverage under other drug programs.
- Do not have private insurance that covers the cost of transportation or accommodation.

Website: https://www.novascotia.ca/apply-funding-boarding-transportation-and-ostomy-supplies-boarding-transportation-and-ostomy-program

IWK Fuel Card Program

Provides free fuel cards to families who must frequently travel to provide their children with urgent medical care at the IWK Health Centre. Assistance is not guaranteed and may not be available every visit.

Eligibility requirements: Families with children accessing care at the IWK Health Centre who travel at least 100km outside of Halifax Regional Municipality, have a financial need, and receive frequent care.

Contact: 902-470-8076 (IWK Social Work Department)

In-province Travel Assistance Pilot Program to Support Surgical Access

Covers some transportation and accommodation costs for Nova Scotians living on low-income for scheduled surgery, endoscopy, and cystoscopy procedures, and some pre-operative and post-operative appointments, including:

- Reimbursement for personal vehicle use ($0.59 per km) to travel between your home and your appointment.
- Reimbursement for the cost of a bus, shuttle, or community transportation service to travel between your home and your appointment.
- Reimbursement for accommodation (a maximum of $85 per night) if your appointment is 50 km or further (one-way) from your home.

Eligibility requirements:
To apply, you need to:

- Be on the Nova Scotia Health waitlist for surgery, an endoscopy or cystoscopy procedure, or if you have a confirmed date for a surgery, endoscopy, or cystoscopy procedure;
- Be a resident of Nova Scotia with a valid Nova Scotia Health Card;
- Have a gross annual family income of $35,000 or less (you need to provide your most recent Canada Revenue Agency Notice of Assessment);
- You can't apply if you have private insurance that covers the cost of transportation or accommodation.

Website: https://novascotia.ca/dhw/in-province-travel-assistance-pilot-program.asp

Nova Scotia Health In-home Blood Collection Services

By referral only. In-home blood collection service through Nova Scotia Health. A patient's physician or nurse practitioner will initiate the request for this service through the Nova Scotia Health Pathology and Laboratory Medicine In-Home Blood Collection referral process.

Eligibility requirements: Patients (12 years old or older) eligible to be referred for this service are as follows:

- Housebound and unable to go out of the home; or
- Where not providing blood collection in the home would cause undue hardship to the patient. The hardship could be physical, medical, financial or other.
- Patients who fit the above criteria and collection is by venipuncture. Continue to refer all collections via lines, catheters, ports, etc. to Continuing Care.

Website: https://www.nshealth.ca/clinics-programs-and-services/home-blood-collection-services

Canadian Cancer Society's Travel Treatment Fund

Offers short-term financial assistance to offset some travel costs when traveling to cancer treatments. This includes expenses like fuel and taxi or public transit fares. It is available to people in Canada who are currently or will soon be undergoing cancer treatment.

Eligibility requirements:

- You have a cancer diagnosis.
- You travel to a hospital or cancer centre to undergo active cancer treatment.
- You meet the household income criteria:
  - Any household makeup whose gross annual income is less than $37,000 annually; or
  - Two or more adults in the household whose gross annual income is between $37,000 - $74,500. Any dependents' income (under the age of 25, living at home with you) should not be counted towards the total household income.
- You have not received Travel Treatment Funding in the previous 12 months.
- You do not have your medical travel expenses covered by a third party.

Website: https://cancer.ca/en/living-with-cancer/how-we-can-help/transportation

Jordan's Principal for First Nations' Children

Jordan's Principle supports substantively equal access to essential government services that respond to the unique situation and distinct needs of each First Nations child. Funding can help with a wide range of health, social and educational needs, including the unique needs that First Nations Two-Spirit and LGBTQQIA children and youth and those with disabilities may have. All requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine whether the requested product, service or supported is required to ensure substantively equal access to government services.

Eligibility requirements: A First Nations child under the age of majority in their province or territory of residence can access Jordan's Principle, if they permanently reside in Canada and if the child meets one of the following criteria:

- Registered or eligible to be registered under the Indian Act.
- One parent or guardian who is registered or eligible to be registered under the Indian Act.
- Recognized by their nation for the purposes of Jordan's Principle.
- Ordinarily a resident on reserve.

Website: https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1568396296543/1582657596387#sec2

Veterans Independence Program

Annual tax-free funding for home care services, including:

- Ambulatory healthcare (assessments, diagnostics, activities and transportation to these services).
- Transportation (transportation to social or community activities).

This program does not replace other federal, provincial or municipal programs. Instead, it is intended to work with those programs to help meet your needs.

Eligibility requirements:
If you need home care services and you:

- have qualified for a disability benefit, or
- have qualified for the War Veterans Allowance, or
- receive Prisoner of War Compensation, or
- are eligible for, but can't access, a Contract Bed (also known as a Priority Access Bed) in a long term care facility.

Website: https://veterans.gc.ca/en/housing-and-home-life/help-home/veterans-independence-program

Colchester County

Colchester Transportation Cooperative Limited (CTCL)

Discounted transportation option.

Dial-A-Ride: Works like a regular taxi service although to book a service you must call 24 to 48 hours before you plan to travel. If you are unable to pre-book a return trip at the time of booking your trip you may have to wait until a driver is available or you may have to find an alternate means of travel.

Regular services: Designed for consistent use for work and education purposes. To use our regular services you do not have to call each time to book a ride but the service does have to be booked a month at a time.

CTCL may also offer a Fare Assistance Program (FAP) to reduce the cost of transportation for individuals and families experiencing low income. Contact CTCL for more information, eligibility, and to apply.

Eligibility requirements: Live within the CTCL service area boundary (Colchester County boundary).

Website: https://ctcl.ruralrides.ca/find-a-ride/

VON Colchester East Hants

Volunteer or paid drivers provide mobility to those who are unable to use other forms of transportation, such as public transit. They may take clients to medical appointments, grocery shopping, adult day programs, to run errands or to other appointments or social outings. Cost varies.

Eligibility requirements: Transportation services to help seniors and adults with disabilities who have no access to transportation, so they can stay independent at home.

Website: https://von.ca/en/locations/colchester-east-hants?transportation#location

Transportation service providers Public Health partnered with during the Transportation Pilot:

Company	Transportation type	Accessible	Contact information
Colchester Transportation Cooperative Ltd.	Community Rider	Wheelchair accessible vehicles available	902-896-7433 ctcl@colchestertransportation.ca
Maritime Bus	Bus service	Wheelchair accessible vehicles available	1-800-575-1807 info@maritimebus.com
VIA Rail	Train between Amherst/Truro/Halifax	Wheelchair accessible vehicles available	https://www.viarail.ca/en
Laytons Taxi	Taxi	Wheelchair accessible vehicles available	902-895-4471 laytonstaxi2010@gmail.com
ATM	Taxi	No	902-843-2010 atmtruro@gmail.com
G&D	Taxi	No	902-893-1687 GandDTaxi@gmail.com
U-Need a taxi	Taxi	No	902-893-2899
Easy Cabs	Taxi	No	902-899-5195 Truro@easycabs26@com

***Note: Companies may charge additional fees for pick-up/drop-off outside of their service community.*

Cumberland County

Cumberland County Transportation Services (CCTS)

Discounted transportation option. Door-to-door service operating on a pre-booking format and can take you where you need to go within the local community, other regions in Nova Scotia, and parts of New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. Accessible vehicles are available. CCTS may also offer a Fare Assistance Program (FAP) to reduce the cost of transportation for individuals and families experiencing low income. Contact CCTS for more information, eligibility, and to apply.

Eligibility requirements: Live within the CCTS service area boundary (Cumberland County boundary).

Website: https://cctscumberland.ruralrides.ca/find-a-ride/

Transportation service providers Public Health partnered with during the Transportation Pilot:

Company	Transportation type	Accessible	Contact information
Cumberland County Transportation Services	Community Rider	Wheelchair accessible vehicles available	902-667-8149 cctsdispatch@gmail.com
Maritime Bus	Bus service	Wheelchair accessible vehicles available	1-800-575-1807 info@maritimebus.com
VIA Rail	Train between Amherst/Truro/Halifax	Wheelchair accessible vehicles available	https://www.viarail.ca/en
Moe's taxi (Springhill)	Taxi	No	902-763-2003
Johnny Hollywood Taxi (Parrsboro)	Taxi	No	902-613-0049 or 902-216-0771
Your Cab (Amherst)	Taxi	Wheelchair accessible vehicles available	902-660-5558 cab4uamherst@hotmail.com
Bakers Taxi (Amherst)	Taxi	No	902-669-4222 anncgallagher@hotmail.com
Bordertown Taxi (Amherst)	Taxi	No	902-669-4680 ross_reid1953@hotmail.com
Amherst Taxi	Taxi	No	902-667-8690 or 902-759-7290
Fundy Taxi	Taxi	No	902-297-8300 Fundycab@gmail.com

***Note: Companies may charge additional fees for pick-up/drop-off outside of their service community.*

East Hants

East Hants Community Rider

Discounted transportation option. Door-to-door service from your front door to where you need to go. East Hants Community Rider also offers a Fare Assistance Program (FAP) to reduce the cost of transportation for individuals and families experiencing low income. Check https://communityrider.ruralrides.ca/our-services/fare-assistance/ for more information, eligibility, and to apply.

Eligibility requirements: Live within the East Hants Community Rider service area boundary (Municipality of the District of East Hants boundary and some rural areas of HRM). The Fare Assistance Program is income-based and provided on an annual basis and is available until March 31st, 2027 on a first come, first served basis until the fund is fully expended.

Website: https://communityrider.ruralrides.ca/find-a-ride/

VON Colchester East Hants

Volunteer or paid drivers provide mobility to those who are unable to use other forms of transportation, such as public transit. They may take clients to medical appointments, grocery shopping, adult day programs, to run errands or to other appointments or social outings. Cost varies.

Eligibility requirements: Transportation services to help seniors and adults with disabilities who have no access to transportation, so they can stay independent at home.

Website: https://von.ca/en/locations/colchester-east-hants?transportation#location

Transportation service providers Public Health partnered with during the Transportation Pilot:

Company	Transportation type	Accessible	Contact information
East Hants Community Rider	Community Rider	Wheelchair accessible vehicles available	902-883-4716 ehcrdispatch@gmail.com
Maritime Bus	Bus service Connections throughout the Maritimes. Flag stop located at Petro-Canada in Elmsdale with advanced notice	Wheelchair accessible vehicles available	1-800-575-1807 info@maritimebus.com
Handy Cabs (Elmsdale)			902-220-8294 doughty.andy@yahoo.ca

***Note: Companies may charge additional fees for pick-up/drop-off outside of their service community.*

Pictou County

CHAD Transit

Discounted transportation option. Door-to-door service where drivers will arrive at your front door ready to take you to where you need to go. Encouraged to book by 12:00pm the day before you need our service to ensure booking availability. CHAD may also offer a Fare Assistance Program (FAP) to reduce the cost of transportation for individuals and families experiencing low income. Contact CHAD for more information, eligibility, and to apply.

Eligibility requirements: Live within the CHAD Transit service area boundary (Pictou County boundary).

Website: https://chadtransit.ruralrides.ca/find-a-ride/

VON Pictou

Volunteer or paid drivers provide mobility to those who are unable to use other forms of transportation, such as public transit. They may take clients to medical appointments, grocery shopping, adult day programs, to run errands or to other appointments or social outings. Cost varies.

Eligibility requirements: Transportation services to help seniors and adults with disabilities who have no access to transportation, so they can stay independent at home.

Website: https://von.ca/en/locations/pictou?transportation#location

Pictou County Transit

Public transit service with two routes. Route one (main route) travels through the towns of Stellarton and New Glasgow in a one-hour loop. Route two (expansion route) travels between New Glasgow, Pictou, Pictou Landing First Nation, Trenton, and Westville. Routes feature fixed stops and flag areas.

Eligibility Requirements: None.

Website: https://pctransit.ca/

Pictou County

Transportation service providers Public Health partnered with during the Transportation Pilot:

Company	Transportation type	Accessible	Contact information
CHAD Transit	Community Rider	Wheelchair accessible vehicles available	902-928-1234 marg@chadtransit.ca
VON Pictou County (Pictou)	Transportation and offer client support in appointments	No	782-233-1097 csspictou@von.ca
Maritime Bus	Bus service	Wheelchair accessible vehicles available	1-800-575-1807 info@maritimebus.com
Compass Cab (Thorburn)	Taxi	No	902-706-0223
Todd's (Stellarton)	Taxi	No	902-755-4181
Central Cab (New Glasgow)	Taxi	No	902-755-6074
Matt's taxi (New Glasgow)	Taxi	No	902-695-4040
Prime (New Glasgow)	Taxi	No	902-616-0016 primecabs16@gmail.com
Dream (Pictou)	Taxi	No	902-616-0062 Dreamcab9@gmail.com
Jason's Taxi (Pictou)	Taxi	No	902-759-2229
Abdul's Taxi (Pictou)	Taxi	No	902-921-8615
CareGo Cabs (New Glasgow)	Taxi	No	902-616-0008 carego16.ltd@gmail.com

***Note: Companies may charge additional fees for pick-up/drop-off outside of their service community.*

Please note: This document will not be updated, and is meant to be used for a short time to support clients who require alternative transportation options in their area.

The list provided is not exhaustive of the transportation options that may be available in your area. The organizations and taxi companies listed are those who Public Health has worked with through the pilot and are trusted partners.

Please visit https://ns.211.ca/ or call 211 for additional transportation options that may be available to you.