



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT FOR Valley REN Liaison and Oversight Committee

Submitted by: Chrystal Remme, Councillor District 3

Meeting Date: June 30, 2026

Meeting Location: Glooscap First Nation Community Centre

SUMMARY/UPDATE OF THE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES:

The Valley Regional Enterprise Network (Valley REN) Annual General Meeting was held on June 30, 2026, at the Glooscap First Nation Community Centre. The meeting highlighted the organization's accomplishments over the past year, shared its vision for the future, and showcased some of the great work happening throughout the Annapolis Valley. The 2025-2026 Annual Report was also presented.

One of my biggest takeaways from the meeting was Valley REN's proposed direction for the future. I had the opportunity to meet with CEO Emily Boucher the week before the AGM to learn more about the organization's restructuring work and the partnership model they're exploring. One of the concerns I shared was making sure smaller businesses and our rural communities continue to have a voice as they move toward greater private sector involvement.

After hearing more about the work that's been done, I left feeling really encouraged. It was clear they've spent a lot of time looking at different options and asking difficult questions. What impressed me most was that they aren't trying to replace the voices already at the table. Instead, they're looking at ways to strengthen the organization by bringing municipalities, First Nations, businesses, and community organizations together. I left feeling inspired by the direction they're taking and the emphasis they're placing on collaboration.

Another presentation that really stood out to me came from the Valley Community Learning Association (VCLA), which spoke about its partnership with the Valley REN Connector Program. They shared stories about people finding good jobs with local employers through the program, and it was a great example of what can happen when organizations work together instead of working in silos. Those partnerships create opportunities for people while also helping local businesses meet their workforce needs, and I'm a big believer that those are the kinds of collaborations that make our communities stronger. The Annual Report also highlights this

partnership and the success it has had in helping participants secure employment and apprenticeships in the skilled trades.

The keynote presentation by Michael Peters, CEO of Glooscap Ventures, was another highlight of the day. He spoke about the incredible work happening within Glooscap First Nation and the vision behind Glooscap Ventures. What stayed with me most wasn't just the projects themselves, but the commitment to reinvesting in the community while planning for future generations. It was inspiring to hear about the long-term thinking behind their work and the positive impact it's having. Following the AGM, attendees toured the new Glooscap Landing Market, which is expected to open in the coming weeks. It was exciting to see another investment that will support local businesses while creating another destination for residents and visitors alike.

The Annual Report also highlights the breadth of work Valley REN continues to do across the region, including support for local businesses through the BusinessNOW Program, workforce development initiatives, business retention and expansion, investment readiness, regional tourism, and collaboration with municipalities, First Nations, businesses, and community partners. It's well worth a read for anyone interested in learning more about the work happening across the Valley. You can view the report here: [Valley REN 2025–2026 Annual Report](#).

Overall, I left the AGM feeling inspired. The common thread throughout the day was people and organizations looking beyond their own organizations and asking how they can work together to make the Annapolis Valley stronger. Whether it was Valley REN's future direction, the partnership with VCLA, or the work being done by Glooscap Ventures, each presentation reinforced the value of collaboration. I think there is a lot to be excited about, and I'm looking forward to seeing where this next chapter takes our region.