



## Measuring Progress in Plan Implementation:

Creating an Evaluation Framework for the Implementation of a Secondary Planning Strategy in Port Williams, Kings County, Nova Scotia

Evaluating the implementation of plans is an ambitious undertaking in the planning field because there is no standardized approach to creating evaluation frameworks. Despite the lack of standardized methodology for evaluating how well a plan has been implemented, there is a general consensus among planners and academics that evaluation is key to determining the success of plans and to providing a measure of accountability. The Municipality of the County of Kings currently has no framework for monitoring the use of plans. This paper proposes an evaluation framework to gauge the degree to which the Secondary Planning Strategy (SPS), currently being developed for the Village of Port Williams, is implemented in the future.

### CONTEXT

Port Williams is a village in the Cornwallis Valley on the northwestern shore of Nova Scotia. Port Williams is unique in that it is both a village and a Growth Centre. The Village of Port Williams is one of six local village governments within the County of Kings; the Growth Centre of Port Williams is one of twelve urban centers identified by the County of Kings. A Secondary Planning Strategy (SPS) has been developed for the Growth Centre of Port Williams and is currently undergoing public consultation. Once the SPS has been approved, an evaluation framework is needed to assess how well the SPS is being implemented.

### FINDINGS AND FRAMEWORK DESCRIPTION

The evaluation framework that has been developed as a result of this project is detailed enough to be useful, but general enough to be flexible. The literature on plan evaluation suggests evaluation frameworks should clearly indicate what values are embedded in a framework and clearly define progress. The values in this framework are the intended outcome of the plan and the plan's contribution to the process of planning. Progress is defined as the implementation of the key ideas of the SPS.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Municipality of the County of Kings, alongside an Area Advisory Committee that deals with local planning issues, use the evaluation framework on an annual basis. The results of the evaluation can be published to provide the community of Port Williams with the opportunity to give feedback. This framework should be used as a planning aid to monitor the implementation of the SPS and facilitate communication between the community of Port Williams and the planners at the Municipality of the County of Kings.

