



**Drought Preparedness Policy  
D-488-26**

Effective Date:  
April 22, 2026

**Part 1 Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to:
  - 1.1.1 Foster resident self-reliance and preparedness;
  - 1.1.2 provide for an annual education campaign; and
  - 1.1.3 define Council's response to a drought declared by the Government of Canada or the Province of Nova Scotia.

**Part 2 Definitions**

- 2.1 **“Council”** means the Municipal Council for the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth
- 2.2 **“Drought”** means a shortage of precipitation over an extended period, usually a season or more, resulting in insufficient water availability that adversely impacts vegetation, animals and people
- 2.3 **“Municipality”** means the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth
- 2.4 **“Preparedness”** means the proactive process of planning, training, and building resources to safely manage, respond to, and minimize the impact of a disruptive situation. It involves identifying risks, creating communication plans, and ensuring self-sufficiency for at least 72 hours
- 2.5 **“Self-reliance”** means relying on one's own powers and resources rather than those of others

**Part 3 Participation in Provincial Programs**

- 3.1 Council will recognize provincial drought declarations and align municipal actions with provincial recommendations and regulations.

**Part 4 Communication**

- 4.1 The Municipality will communicate drought conditions and recommended conservation measures to residents through municipal communication channels, which may include the website, social media, media releases, and other appropriate methods. The material and resources shared by the Municipality shall come from trusted, vetted sources like the Government of Canada and/or Government of Nova Scotia.



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**Part 5 Coordination with Other Agencies**

- 5.1 The Municipality may work with provincial departments, neighbouring municipalities, and local partners to monitor conditions and coordinate responses where necessary.

**Part 6 Annual Public Education Campaign**

- 6.1 The Municipality will support an annual public awareness campaign aimed at educating residents about:
  - 6.1.1 Responsible water use;
  - 6.1.2 The potential impacts of drought;
  - 6.1.3 Practical water conservation practices;
  - 6.1.4 Preparing households for potential water shortages;
  - 6.1.5 Tactics for improving long-term on-site water security for residents.
- 6.2 Educational materials may be shared through municipal communications, community outreach, partnerships with local organizations, and other channels.

**Part 7 Resident Self-Reliance and Preparedness**

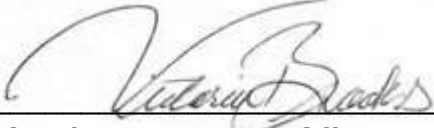
- 7.1 The Municipality will encourage residents to take steps to prepare for drought conditions. This may include:
  - 7.1.1 Monitoring household water use;
  - 7.1.2 Maintaining private wells and water systems;
  - 7.1.3 Storing water for essential needs where appropriate;
  - 7.1.4 Implementing water conservation practices;
  - 7.1.5 Knowing your well water level;
  - 7.1.6 Taking steps for improving long-term on-site water security.
- 7.2 The Municipality may provide guidance and information to help residents improve their preparedness and resilience during drought conditions.

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF YARMOUTH



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<b>Chief Administrative Officer's Annotation for Official Policy Book</b>	
Date of Notice to Council members of Intent to Consider (7 days Min)	April 15, 2026
Date of Passage of current Policy	April 22, 2026
I certify that this Drought Preparedness Policy D-488-26 was adopted by Council as indicated above.	
 _____ Chief Administrative Officer	<u>May 4, 2026</u> Date

**Date last reviewed by Council:**

**Date last amended:**

**Amendment Log**

Date	Amendment Description