



Funding will provide a new way to get around in Blacks Harbour

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and the Federal Government has awarded a Rural Transit Pilot Project to Eastern Charlotte Waterways (ECW), to provide a new ride-share transportation system to the community of Blacks Harbour and the southwest New Brunswick region.

Issues of mobility and accessibility in rural communities are well documented, and Blacks Harbour is no exception. This pilot project aims to address these transportation issues by providing a fleet of electric cars for community-wide use. It will act as an on-demand door-to-door service. The new rideshare system which will launch in the fall of 2021, is the natural next step in ECW's mandate of working towards designing sustainable systems for rural communities.

"ECW's mandate has always been supporting sustainable projects that benefit local residents and the environment. This investment will improve accessibility and the livelihoods of people in our community while raising the profile of the village to attract new businesses, visitors, and residents. Providing this climate-friendly ride-share program helps facilitate the community's potential growth through connectivity"

- Rick MacMillan, board chair of Eastern Charlotte Waterways

The community of Blacks Harbour, and the greater southwestern New Brunswick region, has not had a public transportation option since the end of the Rural Lynx project in 2020. With support from ECCC, ECW will be able to operate an integrated public transportation model. This model is built upon 8 years of extensive research and reports from the Southwest Transit Authority Board as well as other community organizations both in and outside the province of New Brunswick.

The ECW team will be working collaboratively with key community partners that include the Charlotte County Multicultural Association and Vibrant Communities Charlotte County to ensure the pilot project is successful in providing all community members with an efficient, affordable and climate-friendly way to get around.

This rural transit pilot project is an investment in social infrastructure that prioritizes rural communities and facilitates future growth.

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About Eastern Charlotte Waterways

Eastern Charlotte Waterways is a non-government organization focused on the environmental and community health of southwest New Brunswick and the Bay of Fundy.

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