

Hello,

June 12, 2024

The Lawrence House Museum has been operated by the provincial government since it opened in 1967. It is one of 28 museum sites that make up the Nova Scotia Museum. Museum operations have changed in many ways since Lawrence House opened and many similar-aged museums have taken time to reconsider how to make better use of their resources. Lawrence House, like many other sites, has been impacted by change over the last 50 years.

The past decade has been operationally challenging for the Lawrence House Museum. Visitation has been steadily declining and government has faced challenges recruiting and retaining the staff required to maintain a regular, seasonal schedule and offer additional programs. As a result, it is not surprising that some community members have expressed a desire to see the site open more frequently and have voiced other concerns about the site.

In light of these factors, we decided to take a pause, review museum operations, speak with community members, and determine a path forward for Lawrence House Museum. This means that the museum will be temporarily closed to the public for the 2024 season.

We will make the site available for community events and celebrations as needed. We are aware of a couple of upcoming events, including the 150th celebration of the launch of the *WD Lawrence*, and we will be reaching out to community organizers to support these activities. We encourage others to contact us to discuss other events we may not be aware of. The museum site will be maintained to ensure the safety of the building and upkeep of the grounds.

We will be holding online engagement meetings with key stakeholder groups over the next two weeks to learn more about the community's vision for the site. If you are interested in participating, **please reach out to Sarah Couce (Sarah.Couce@novascotia.ca)** to book an appointment for an online meeting. We will book 45 minute time slots within these available times:

Monday June 17th 1-4pm

Monday June 24th 11-12pm and 1-2 pm

Wednesday June 26th 2-4 pm

We will add more time slots for meetings if necessary and will plan for additional meetings with the broader Maitland community as the summer progresses. We look forward to these discussions, and the opportunity to hear first-hand from Maitland and area residents about their vision for Lawrence House Museum.

Thank you for your interest in the future of Lawrence House Museum.

Sincerely,

Laura Bennett, Director, Nova Scotia Museum and

Stephanie Smith, Executive Director, Archives, Museums & Libraries

