Project Objective
To replace fossil fuel heating systems with wood chip heating systems in select public buildings (e.g., schools, government offices, health facilities), ensuring the use of locally-sourced wood chips primarily from small private woodlots on a long-term basis. Benefits include building the market for lower grade wood fibre; substituting fuel imports with local, renewable, carbon-friendly fuel; providing reliable, stable and predictable heating costs for public buildings; and supporting sustainable forest management and strengthen wood supply chain.

Project Team Lead
Rany Ibrahim, MBA, Director, Economic Development, Lands and Forestry (L&F)

Project Partners
- Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
- Expert economists from the Nova Scotia Innovation Hub and Saint Mary’s University

Key Deliverables
- Phase 1 deliverable includes implementing wood heat energy systems into a select number of public buildings, aiming to be ready for the 2020-2021 heating season
- Subsequent phases will involve expanding the number of facilities

Expected Areas of Stakeholder and/or Public Participation (may not be limited to)
- Interested wood chip suppliers will have the opportunity to participate in the procurement process. Energy service providers will be required to acquire the appropriate wood supply primarily from local private sector woodlot sources.
- Woodlot owners can become aware of opportunities by maintaining contact with local woodlot associations, cooperatives, and/or direct contact with energy service providers.

Timeline
- Spring/Summer 2019: Identify a selection of prospective buildings for Phase 1
- Fall 2019: Tender a request for qualified suppliers for service providers for Phase 1
- Fall/Winter 2020: First sites to be in place for 2020-21 heating season
- Phase 2: Future expansion based on lessons learned from Phase 1