

Body Armour Policy

Purpose

The Town of Antigonish is committed to ensuring the safety of its By-law Enforcement Officers through clear guidelines on the use, maintenance, replacement, and return of body armour. This policy establishes standards consistent with the Nova Scotia Body Armour Control Act to ensure compliance with provincial regulations while enhancing officer protection.

Scope

This policy applies to the Town's By-law Enforcement Officers authorized to wear body armour by the Province of Nova Scotia in the course of their duties.

Legislative Authority

The Nova Scotia Body Armour Control Act governs the possession, use, and distribution of body armour within the province. Under this legislation, authorized personnel, including By-law Enforcement Officers, may legally possess and wear body armour. This policy ensures compliance with the Act while setting municipal-specific guidelines for its use.

Issuance and Use of Body Armour

The Town of Antigonish requires that body armour be worn, maintained, replaced, and returned in accordance with the following guidelines:

- a) Body armour shall be issued to by-law enforcement officers as required for their duties.
- b) Officers must wear body armour while engaged in field activities including but not limited to:
 - Visiting a property for an inspection
 - When attempting to serve papers to an individual
 - When directing traffic
 - Enforcement activities involving potential threats, including dog control or animal matters

- Any other circumstances where the officer's supervisor deems it necessary
- c) Officers are encouraged to wear body armour during routine patrols for added protection.
- d) Body armour shall only be worn by the officer to whom it is assigned and shall not be transferred or loaned to unauthorized personnel.
- e) Any officer who is medically unable to wear body armour must provide documentation and receive an exemption from their supervisor.

Care and Maintenance

- a) Officers are responsible for maintaining their assigned body armour in good condition.
- b) Body armour must be inspected after each use by the officer for any signs of damage, wear, or defects.
- c) An annual inspection of the body armour must be conducted by the supervisor using the Town's Annual Body Armour Inspection Form.
- d) Officers must follow manufacturer guidelines for cleaning and storage to ensure maximum effectiveness.
- e) Any damaged or compromised body armour must be reported to the officer's supervisor immediately and replaced as necessary.
- f) The Town will provide resources for the proper care and maintenance of issued body armour.

Replacement of Body Armour

Body armour shall be replaced in accordance with manufacturer guidelines, or sooner if:

- a) The body armour is damaged or no longer effective.
- b) The officer's body composition changes significantly, affecting fit and protection.
- c) The Town will ensure funding and procurement processes support timely replacement of body armour.

Return of Body Armour

- a) Officers must return all issued body armour upon resignation, termination, retirement, or reassignment to a position where body armour is not required.
- b) Failure to return issued body armour may result in disciplinary action or financial liability in accordance with the Nova Scotia Body Control Act.
- c) Body armour that is no longer in serviceable condition must be properly disposed of according to provincial and manufacturer guidelines.

Compliance and Accountability

- a) Officers are responsible for adhering to this policy. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.
- b) Supervisors are responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy.
- c) The Town of Antigonish reserves the right to amend this policy in response to legislative changes or operational needs.
- d) Compliance with the Nova Scotia Body Armour Control Act will be reviewed annually to ensure alignment with provincial standards.
- e) In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between this policy and provincial legislation or regulations, the provincial legislation and regulations shall prevail.

CAO's Annotation for Official Policy Book

Date of Notice to Council Members Intent to Consider
(Minimum 7 Days): 2025-04-01

Date of Passage of Current Policy: 2025-04-22

I certify that this Policy was adopted by Council as indicated
above.



Chief Administrative Officer

2025-04-24

Date