

# The Shoreline Tid-Bits Journal

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paid for their services based on clear timelines set out in regulation. Targeted consultations will be held with contractors, sub-contractors, suppliers, trade unions, engineers, road-builders, Canadian Federation of Independent Business, municipalities, the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities and other interested stakeholders beginning in the spring.

### Launch of Award for Culinary Excellence

A new award launched announced on March 13, recognizes top Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) culinary students. The award was developed in partnership with the college and is the first award to be created during the tenure of Lt.-Gov. LeBlanc.

The awards program for culinary excellence features six awards, one at each NSCC campus offering culinary programming. From the six award recipients, one student will be selected to receive the top honour, including a medal for culinary excellence.

The recipients will be assessed on academic performance, dedication and commitment to the culinary profession, and community involvement. The awards will be presented annually at a ceremony at Government House.

### Employment Growing While Unemployment Declines

Employment in Nova Scotia reached a new high of 466,500 this February, continuing eight consecutive months of growth, according to Statistics Canada. At the same time, the unemployment rate fell to 6.4 per cent, its lowest recorded level since modern labour force surveys began in 1976.

"We are working to create an environment that allows the private sector to create jobs and opportunities to benefit all Nova Scotians," said Finance and Treasury Board Minister Karen Casey. "As a province we are seeing more employment opportunities in each of the last eight months."

Year over year, employment is up 10,800 compared to February 2018 while the labour force grew by 3,900. Since February of 2018, the unemployment rate has fallen 1.5 percentage points. Trends are even more noticeable for youth aged 15 to 24. Youth labour force is up 5,100 since February 2018 and youth employment increased by 7,400. The unemployment rate for youth has fallen by 4.4 percentage points over the last year to 14.2 per cent.

For more information visit <https://novascotia.ca/finance/statistics/default.asp>.

### Supports for Sexual Assault Victims

Victims of sexual assault will now have access to free legal representation to challenge applications to have their past sexual history considered as part of the evidence in criminal court cases. Nova Scotia will be among the first provinces to respond to a recent federal legislative amendment providing complainants in sexual assault cases with the right to legal representation for hearings under Section 276 of the Criminal Code of Canada, which are applications to have past sexual history considered as evidence.

Survivors of sexual violence are also entitled to up to four hours of free legal advice through the province's Independent Legal Advice Program.

### Emergency 911 Act Improvements

Changes to the Emergency 911 Act will help make more services available to Nova Scotians during emergencies and severe weather events. This may include providing comfort centres with satellite phones or helping provide enhanced cell phone charging services for citizens during prolonged weather events or emergencies. The changes will also expand the mandate of the E911 Cost Recovery Fund to further complement the 911 service. Nova Scotia began charging a 43 cents per month fee in 2001 to cover the cost of operating the system. The money is disbursed through the E911 Cost Recovery Fund and does not go into the provincial government's general revenues. The Emergency Management Office will work with municipalities to identify opportunities to better meet the needs of Nova Scotians during emergencies and severe weather events and help increase the resiliency of communities during such events.

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# HOME DECOR & MORE



Looking for some new gifts ideas for Easter? New giftware and home décor has arrived for Spring at local retailers including Money's Worth on Jennifer Drive in Bible Hill. (Submitted)

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## EfficiencyOne Files 3-Year \$129-Million Plan

By Maurice Rees

EfficiencyOne is seeking approval to help Nova Scotians and Nova Scotia businesses achieve additional energy savings over a three-year period starting in 2020.

In an application filed with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board on February 28, EfficiencyOne details a proposal that would support construction of 2,400 energy efficient homes and 2,700 retrofits of existing homes. Other programs support upgrades for 2,000 small business customers and 640,000 rebates for efficient products.

The application filed with the UARB seeks approval for a three-year, \$129-million investment with target first-year energy savings of 421.7 GWh,

demand savings of 120.1 MW, and lifetime energy savings of 5,996.3 GWh.

Under the independent utility's 2020-2022 Efficiency Plan, new programs have been developed to deliver benefits to Mi'kmaq communities and for renters. The plan also focuses additional resources for insulation and other higher-cost upgrades that provide long-term energy savings to customers.

EfficiencyOne is an independent, non-profit organization based in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. It has helped more than 400,000 program participants complete efficiency projects. In 2018, EfficiencyOne programs enabled Nova Scotians to reduce CO2 emissions by one million tonnes.

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