

\$200-Million Contingency Fund

While travelling to New York and Boston on an anti-tariffs tour, Premier Houston was promoting Nova Scotia opportunities. The 2025-26 budget includes a \$200-million contingency fund to help respond if the U.S. imposes tariffs that affect Nova Scotians

In New York, he hosted two roundtables with existing and potential investors about opportunities for the seafood sector and the critical minerals sector. In Boston, he spoke to an international audience at Seafood Expo North America, North America's largest seafood conference.

"Now, more than ever, we have to diversify our economy. We have to go where the buyers are," said Premier Houston. "Nova Scotia has a lot to offer, from high-quality products like seafood and resources like critical minerals. We hope to increase our trade opportunities and put an end to President Trump's unlawful tariff conflict so we can get back to business."

As part of Budget 2025-26, the Province will work to strengthen Nova Scotia's self-reliance by investing in critical minerals, wind resources and the seafood sector, in addition to investing more money to grow the Nova Scotia Loyal program. The Province will also develop a comprehensive

trade action plan to facilitate internal trade, enhance productivity and drive critical sectors with input from businesses and industry.

Quick Facts:- Budget 2025-26 includes a \$200-million contingency fund to help respond if the U.S. imposes tariffs that affect Nova Scotians. In 2024, Nova Scotia exports to the U.S. were \$4.6 billion and imports were \$528.3 million; the top exports were: tires - \$1.5 billion; fish and

seafood - \$1.2 billion; forest products - \$430.4 million; agriculture and agri-food products - \$278.6 million; plastics - \$217.3 million; electrical machinery and equipment - \$159 million; auto vehicles and parts - \$132.7 million; machinery and mechanical appliances - \$120.9 million; non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying (mostly gravel and gypsum) - \$118.7 million and articles of iron and steel - \$97.6 million.

Nova Scotia continued to be

Canada's seafood export leader in 2024; 36 per cent of Nova Scotia's seafood exports were destined for markets in Indo-Pacific countries

Anti-tariff mission delegates included Premier Houston and Nicole LaFosse Parker, Chief of Staff and General Counsel; Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister Kent Smith and Executive Deputy Minister Tracey Taweel joined them in Boston.

Official statement on U.S. tariffs (March 4): <https://news.novascotia.ca/en/2025/03/04/state-ment-us-tariffs>

2025 Wine Award Call for Submissions

The 2025 Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Excellence in Nova Scotia Wines is open for submissions. "The wine industry in Nova Scotia continues to grow in reputation, producing exceptional wines that reflect the dedication and expertise of our local winemakers," said Lt.-Gov. Mike Savage. "This award is an opportunity to celebrate their passion, resilience and innovation. Their work enhances the province's culinary and cultural landscape, and I am honoured to recognize their contributions."

Established by former lieutenant-governor J.J. Grant in 2014, the award recognizes the outstanding quality of locally sourced and produced wines. It also honours

the commitment and craft of the people in Nova Scotia's wine industry. The award is administered in collaboration with Taste of Nova Scotia and Wine Growers Nova Scotia. These organizations will share information about the submission process with member wineries. The submission deadline is May 9.

Wineries may submit up to three commercially available wines made with 100 per cent Nova Scotian grapes. The wines will be judged through a blind tasting process by a panel of independent wine experts. Up to five wines will be selected for the annual award. The 2025 award ceremony will take place at Government House in July.

COVID-19 Spring Vaccine Dose

People at highest risk for severe illness from COVID-19 can book a second vaccine dose - if it's been at least three months since their last dose or known infection - starting March 24. The spring dose will be available from March 31 to June 30. The children's COVID-19 vaccine for those aged six months to 11 years is available until June 17.

Nova Scotia is following recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) to provide people at highest risk a spring dose. This includes: - people 65 years of age or older; people aged 18 and older living in long-term care, nursing homes, senior congregate living settings or residential care facilities; people six months and older who meet the criteria for being moderately to severely immunocompromised due to an underlying condition or treatment and people aged 50 years and older who identify as Black, African Nova Scotian or First Nations.

"It is recommended that those with the highest risk of infection get a second dose to prevent severe illness," said Dr. Jesse Kancir, Nova Scotia's Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health. "People who aren't in that high-risk category and are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines are still well protected."

People who did not receive a dose in the fall or winter can continue to get the vaccine, even if they are not in the high-risk category. Anyone who has never had a COVID-19 vaccine can also do so. COVID-19 and influenza symptoms can include a sudden high fever, headache, general aches and pains, fatigue and weakness, a runny, stuffy nose, sneezing and sore throat.

Appointments can be booked online at <https://novascotia.ca/vaccination>. Those who are unable to book online can schedule an appointment by calling 1-833-797-7772, seven days a week.

Truro to Host Technologies Symposium on April 8TH

The Truro Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity (TCPEP), in collaboration with Invest NS and local businesses, is delighted to announce that tickets are now available for the upcoming Construction Technologies Symposium, scheduled for April 8th at the Inn on Prince, Truro. This premier event will bring together industry professionals, innovators, and stakeholders to explore the latest and emerging advancements in construction technologies and modular housing. If adopted, these innovations and new technologies will reduce dependency on labour and good weather, and accelerate housing starts across Nova Scotia.

The symposium will feature a series of keynote presentations, panel discussions, and conversations led by renowned experts in the field. Attendees—including home builders, contractors, trades, architects, engineers, developers, students and technology providers—will have the opportunity to explore cutting-edge topics such as sustainable building practices, BIM (Building Information Technology), design and modular construction solutions, financing prefabricated projects and the integration of artificial intelligence in project management.

"This unique symposium will not only spark meaningful conversations about new ways of building, but also drive innovation and economic growth across our region and beyond," said J. David Philips, Chief Executive Officer of TCPEP. "We are excited to bring together leaders in modular construction and technology to shape the future of housing construction."

Registration for the Construction Technologies Symposium is now open. Professionals, students, and interested members of the community are encouraged to visit the official website at www.construction-technologies.ca for more information and to secure their participation.

Complimentary registration is available for students, encouraging the next generation of construction professionals to engage with

industry leaders. The Truro Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity (TCPEP) is dedicated to driving economic growth and fostering business success in the Truro and Colchester region. Through strategic initia-

tives, collaboration, and support for key industries, TCPEP works to create opportunities for businesses, entrepreneurs, and workforce development. By promoting innovation, investment, and regional competitiveness, TCPEP plays a vital role in shaping a prosperous future for the local economy.

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