

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

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Amendments to Cannabis Control Act

Legislation introduced on February 25, will amend the Cannabis Control Act to improve public health and safety. "We are strengthening the Cannabis Control Act through expanded enforcement authority, increased fines and addressing evidentiary issues," said Attorney General and Justice Minister Scott Armstrong. "These amendments will protect our young people and ensure adults who choose to use cannabis can do so safely, with tested and regulated products."

Changes to the act include: creating a new offence - when a landlord permits a place or premises to be used for the distribution or sale of cannabis in violation of the act; expanding enforcement - allowing the appointment of peace officers to enforce the act, in addition to police; increasing fine amounts and setting mandatory minimum fines; clarifying that courts can infer a product is cannabis based on common-sense observations, such as appearance and odour and permitting the court to accept a certificate from the Nova Scotia Liquor Corp. (NSLC) as proof that someone charged with unauthorized selling did not buy the product from the NSLC.

Legislation Creates Institute of Skilled Trades at NSCC

Nova Scotia is taking another step to grow its skilled trades workforce through the creation of the Institute of Skilled Trades (IST) at Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC), first announced earlier in February. Amendments introduced on February 24, to the Community Colleges Act will support the institute's establishment and strengthen collaboration between the government, NSCC and industry so training better reflects workforce needs across the province.

Responsibility for appointing NSCC's President will also shift to the Province.

"Nova Scotia's future depends on a strong, skilled workforce," said Nolan Young, Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration. "Guided by industry, the Institute of Skilled Trades (IST) will help ensure more people can train for good careers here at home while supporting the industries driving our economy forward."

The legislation also strengthens collaboration by adding the Department's deputy minister to the NSCC board of governors; enables regulations to support the IST's industry-led council; and updates the act to reflect the transfer of responsibility for NSCC to the Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration.

The IST will bring NSCC's trades programming under a dedicated structure, overseen by an industry-led council. This approach will help strengthen pathways into and progression through apprenticeship and employment while supporting continued growth in high-demand sectors such as construction, industrial and manufacturing, motive power and service trades.

Province Introduces Legislation to Power the Economy

New legislation will help Nova Scotians benefit from the jobs and investments that come with clean energy and natural resource development.

Premier Tim Houston introduced the Powering the Economy Act on February 24. It secures financial benefits from offshore wind, allows more subsurface energy resources to be developed safely, and continues modernizing Nova Scotia's electricity system.

"This legislation makes sure Nova Scotians reap the full benefits of offshore wind and onshore natural resources and that our electricity system is serving us well, now and in the future," said Premier Houston. "Offshore wind is a game-changer that will help pay for the services Nova Scotians deserve. We also see great opportunities in emerging sectors like natural hydrogen and carbon storage, and we're making sure we're ready to regulate them."

The bill creates the new Offshore Renewable Energy Revenue Act to provide a revenue framework for offshore wind projects. One levy is set in the legislation, and another will be set in regulations to reflect market conditions. Bid fees will be set in regulations.

The bill also repeals the Petroleum Resources Act and replaces it with new legislation that addresses emerging natural resource opportunities. In addition to resources such as onshore oil and gas, the new Subsurface Energy Resource Extraction Act will also regulate geothermal, natural hydrogen, helium and carbon storage projects.

Two changes in the bill relate to the Independent Energy System Operator (IESO Nova Scotia). Under the More Access to Energy Act, it will have more time to finish moving staff, equipment and responsibilities from Nova Scotia Power. Under the Electricity Act, renewable electricity targets can be set for IESO Nova Scotia, which is taking over responsibility for procuring clean energy for the grid. As Nova Scotia Power moves out of electricity generation, those targets will be removed from the utility's requirements.

Quick Facts: Under regulations, offshore wind bid applications will require a \$250,000 refundable fee, and winning offshore wind bidders will pay a \$750,000 non-refundable licence fee; under the Offshore Renewable Energy Revenue Act, developers will pay an annual levy of \$7,000 per megawatt for the first 10 years of commercial operations; after 10 years, the Province can continue applying the \$7,000 levy or apply a levy set in regulations that reflects a percentage of gross revenue - whichever is greater; the original deadline to complete the transition from Nova Scotia Power to IESO Nova Scotia was October 2026; the new deadline is May 1, 2028 and the bill clarifies that, if Nova Scotia Power is granted a power purchase agreement for any offshore wind energy, the utility must purchase all the electricity outlined in that agreement.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Program Began December 1, 2025



Submitted by Phillip Redden, B.Eng.

Phillip Redden, B.Eng. Director of Solid Waste presented his 8-page report at council's committee meeting on March 12. This section deals with Solid Waste.

MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY

Staffing: During this reporting period, the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) has filled all but one vacancy. Five full time sorters transitioned from the part-time pool to the permanent pool. Two new permanent part-time sorters were filled from external candidates. For Operators, all positions in the Forklift, Baler and Loader positions were filled internally. Finally, the opening for MRF Cleaner was filled externally. Currently, a search for Maintenance Worker is underway and resumes are being reviewed.

Due to the many position changes in 2025 in Solid Waste, the MRF continues operator training for the back-ups. These include multiple staff for forklift and baler operation. Winter months provide excellent opportunity for training as the summer/Christmas rush for packaging material lessens.

Projects/Operations: On December 1, 2025, the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program came into effect. The MRF now processes packaging and paper recycling products on behalf of Circular Materials, who represent the producers of packaging materials. Through this reporting period MRF staff have been commended for their efforts given at the start of Q1 2026 specifically. Christmas production volumes spike in the new year, combined with volume changes at the facility through the EPR program. To date, backlogged production has been processed successfully.

New sampling procedures come into effect on behalf of Circular Materials to be sent offsite and audited for 200+ sorts. This helps identify the various types of materials being sent for recycling by residents, as well as improve education to areas experiencing high levels of contamination.

A side door entrance to the bag ripper side of the building has been completed. This allows safer access to the production lines bag ripper. Improved access increases safety via egress as well as gives flexibility to volume fluctuations on the tipping floor.

Production and Markets: As a result of the December

1st changeover to the EPR program, finished goods from the inbound commercial material is the only products the Municipality of Colchester (MOC) is responsible for marketing. Markets for plastic, steel and cardboard fibre material has remained flat but plastics markets are expected to decline with the announcement of the closure of the Nova PET plastic bottle recycling plant in Amherst, NS.

Old flyers, office paper and boxboard fiber material for the insulation market continues to hold strong for the local insulation manufacturing plant in Debert, NS. The last four months production for all out bound materials from October 2025 through January 2026 was 3,464 commodity units produced, and 3,639 commodity units shipped.

Staff continue to explore expansion opportunities with Institutional, Commercial and industrial (ICI) customers and other MRF operators.

Phillip Redden, B.Eng. is Director of Solid Waste at MRF in Kempton

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The Shoreline Journal
Deadline for the May issue is April 21

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LOOKING TO GET ACTIVE

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Facebook: Colchester Recreation

Don't forget to submit your steps every Sunday evening/Monday morning!

Register online: www.colchester.ca/spring
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