

Notes from our Provincial
Capital
**School Lunch Program
Expands to All Public
Schools**

Students in every public school will have access to healthy, affordable lunches when the final phase of the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program launches in high schools this September.

For the 2026-27 school year, lunches will be available in all 372 public schools across the province, offering more than 133,000 students access to nutritious food during the school day. Most high schools will manage their own operations rather than contracting external vendors, giving them the flexibility to meet the needs of older students while supporting the long-term sustainability of the program.

The Province continues to refine the program based on student participation and feedback. Menus for the 2026-27 school year will include new options like chicken caesar wraps, chicken fried rice, ramen-style noodle bowls and salads. Larger portion sizes will also be introduced in high schools. The program has served more than 12 million meals to students across Nova Scotia since launching in 2024.

**Museums Offer Free,
Reduced Admission for
Youth**

Offering displays from 100-year-old fire trucks to 200-million-year-old dinosaur skeletons, provincial museums are welcoming young people with free or reduced admission this summer. Starting June 19, to September 7, children aged 17 and under will receive free entry to all 16 Nova Scotia Museum sites and the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, while young adults aged 18 to 24 will receive a 50 per cent discount. The program is part of the Canada Strong Pass, a federal initiative that encourages young people to discover Canada's natural and cultural heritage.

Our museums are full of stories about who we are as Nova Scotians, and we want more young people to experience them. This program is a simple way to make that easier for families this summer.

**Emergency Services
Provider Fund**

The Emergency Serv-



Dave Ritcey

ices Provider Fund (ESPF) provides funding to help first responder organizations buy emergency response equipment that's used directly in response to a fire or emergency. For the current application intake period, you can apply for emergency service individual funding from 1 June 2026 to 31 July 2026.

**Local Food Security
Initiatives Grant**

The Local Food Security Initiatives grant is online and open for applications! Funding is available to non-profits, community organizations, and Mi'kmaq communities across Nova Scotia to support projects that address food security and improve access to healthy and locally produced or prepared food.

Funding can be used to purchase food for distribution, equipment that increases food distribution capacity and support collaboration on food distribution and the development of food networks.

Learn more about eligibility, program guidelines and how to apply before the August 31, 2026 deadline:

<https://www.novascotia.ca/apply-funding-help-communities...>

**Property Tax Rebate for
Seniors**

Applications are now open for the Property Tax Rebate for Seniors. If you're a low-income senior who qualifies for the Guaranteed Income Supplement, you could receive a rebate covering half of last year's municipal property taxes, up to \$800.

Our government is committed to making life more affordable for Nova Scotians, and this program is one more way we're helping seniors keep more money in their pockets. Applications are open until December 31. Learn more and apply here: <https://beta.novascotia.ca/apply-property-tax-rebate>

Dave Ritcey is MLA, Truro-Millbrook-Bible Hill-Salmon River. He can be reached by telephone at 902-897-0884 or by e-mail at mlaritcey@bellaliant.com

Parrsboro Celebrates 100TH Birthday of the MV Kipawo

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collect stories from each community to have a permanent place for them.

"It's a story that's different in each community, so the big picture isn't known unless we tell it in a cohesive way. Through these celebrations I have been able to connect people who

have stories relating to the original leg of the story between 1926 and 1941 and the other leg after it returned from Newfoundland in 1982 and in 1984 when Ship's Company was founded on its deck."

She said the Kipawo is also from a time when the Minas Basin was viewed by resi-

dents as a highway connecting Cumberland County to the Annapolis Valley as opposed to an obstacle to go around.

While it's doubtful a ferry will ever return, Ryan said she can see a time when a tour company could possibly restore those connections from 80 years ago.

"Today it's a four or five-hour trip opposed to an hour and a half on the boat which is the way it used to be," Ryan said. "It is a celebration of the boat, but it's also a celebration of the connection that once was and trying to renew those connections for future prosperity."

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Parrsboro Tides

AUGUST 2026

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