



"We might also wonder, where are the best places to see the sunset."

Geoscientists of the Geopark

January 2026

By **Tim Fedak, David Piper, and Caleb Grant**

A new year in the Cliffs of Fundy. A time to celebrate with community and reflect on the year ahead. It's cold, but the days are getting longer, the sun rising a little earlier each day.

The Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark is a place like no other in the world. In the winter, the tides rise and lift the thin sheets of ice along the shore of the estuaries from Lower Truro to Apple River. But at low tide, wonderful beaches open up at Wa'so'q (Partridge Island) and W'touml (Spencers Island), to explore under the warm sunshine.

We might wonder, where are the best places in the geopark to view the winter sunrise? Perhaps it's while walking along the beach at Two Islands, seeing the sun rise behind Five Islands in the east? The sunrise at Spencers Island is also very special. A cold but inspiring start to a day.

Living and working in the Cliffs of Fundy throughout the year, citizens know the power of this special place. The weather and storms are to be respected, but the beauty of the geological landscapes seem more vivid in the winter. Perhaps we feel this way, knowing the days are shorter, and our chances to catch those moments are

more fleeting. As we try to steal away and catch the sparkle as the light catches the frozen sea spray on the alder berries and wild rose hips, safe above the beaches' high tide mark. The vast blueberry fields turned into expansive white vistas, or the snow hanging in the trees along the highway in Moose River. Such beauty.

We might also wonder, where are the best places to see the sunset. There is that special view as you travel over Economy Mountain and you see Five Islands, Cape Split, and far down the shore towards Cape d'Or. The sunset lighting up the sky. Too bad we can't pull over the car and enjoy this magnificent view. A safer place to enjoy the sunset is on the beach at Partridge Island, Wa'so'q (Heaven), Grandmother's cooking pot. Watching the sunset you can't help but think, this the most beautiful place on earth. Or for travelers further east in the Geopark, a stop at the Fundy Discovery Site, at the head of Minas Basin, provides a due-West vista where the last rays of sun paint the marsh grasses that stretch out along the banks of Salmon River.

For more information or to ask a question about the Geopark contact: Geoscientists of the Geopark via email at: geoscience@fundygeopark.ca

Notes from our Provincial Capital 2026 To Be a Big Year

2026 is going to be a big year for Nova Scotia.

This isn't just classic new year's resolution rhetoric - it's a prediction based on just how many big projects and initiatives are on the horizon.

We are working to develop Wind West - an offshore wind energy transmission project that could meet about a quarter of Canada's energy needs.

At the end of April, bids will close for offshore natural gas exploration. Royalties from offshore gas brought jobs and prosperity to Nova Scotia in the past, and can do so again in the future.

By developing our wind, oil and gas, we can stop importing fuel. In fact, there's so much that we can meet our own needs while selling what we don't need to the rest of the world.

And we are committed to doing this safely. We are working with Dalhousie University to determine where onshore natural gas can be developed safely and to come up with rules and regulations that will allow us to do so responsibly.

These energy projects will drive our Province forward towards a more prosperous and sustainable future.

Sometimes the pace of government can seem slow. As Premier,

I get that. It's why our government's motto is "more, faster."

It can take time to see progress because for any big project, be it a hospital, a highway or Canada's first offshore wind development, it needs designs, workers to be hired and construction.

Last year we told the world that Nova Scotia is saying "yes" to developing our natural resources. We modernized government policies and officially opened the calls for energy projects to begin.

Too often governments only focus on governing for the short term and it's easy for politicians to peddle "quick fixes" - but it's long-term projects like this that will bring good-paying jobs to Nova Scotia. And it's energy projects like these that bring in the revenue needed to pay for the services we depend on.

I'm optimistic that 2026 is going to be a big year for Nova Scotia as our government unleashes the potential and becomes not only energy secure, but an energy exporter.

Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia can be reached at: premier@novascotia.ca or 902-424-6600



Tim Houston

Notes from our Provincial Capital Saving over \$20-Million a year.

As we begin a new year, almost a month gone, there is much turmoil, uncertainty and unrest around the world. Undoubtedly some of this will impact Nova Scotia in some way. I chose to be optimistic.

As many of you will be aware, we as a government are faced with a significant budget deficit. We will soon be in the Legislature (February 23) to present and debate a new budget. It is my expectation that some difficult choices will have to be made. Having said this, I personally believe we must push forward in addressing our historic infrastructure deficit. To do this we need to invest in Nova Scotia and Nova Scotians, and we need to grow our economy and create wealth. Increase our GDP and create good paying jobs for Nova Scotians, thus creating the revenue to sustain and grow our Population.

It will come as no surprise that I am a big supporter of Responsible Resource Development. Our Natural resources built this Province and this Country. It is my view that it will take time, but it will be the development of these natural resources that will over time lead to a very vibrant and prosperous Nova Scotia. A Nova Scotia that can continue to invest in housing, seniors care, schools, highway infrastructure and Health Care. All are critical to the support the growth of services for our residents for years to come. We have not seen investment by previous governments focused on balanced budgets at the expense of growth.

Do not think for one minute that I am not concerned about debt and its impact on our children and grandchildren. Again, it is my view that the best path forward is resource development and growth.

Enough on that, although undoubtedly you will hear more from me on this subject throughout the year. I want to turn to Health. At Public Accounts this week, for the third or fourth time the subject was the new transitional care facility in West Bedford. The Au-

ditor General has identified this facility as where some of the work did not go through the typical tender process. An alternate procurement process was used which caused her to be concerned about value for money. That's her job!

Fortunately, this is becoming a success story. In an effort to find a solution to the lack of available hospital beds (we all know and have heard of the stories of patients on beds in the Hallways and waiting in Emergency rooms waiting for available bed in out acute care facilities) a decision was made to find an alternative, or maybe think outside the box. The department went looking for a site and after reviewing 17 alternative sites they settled on a hotel that was currently under construction on Hogan Court. The building was purchased and changes were incorporated to enable an efficiently run transitional care facility with 68 patient care beds. It is my view that this has been extremely successful and as a result phase 2 will add an additional 110 beds and is scheduled to open in April of this year. This is an amazing story and will significantly change care deliver in NS!

There is far more positive and exciting information than I can put in this article. I recommend you take the time to view this committee meeting by going to Nova Scotia Legislative TV, click on Broadcast Archives, then click Standing Committee on Public Accounts. The video is 2 hours and there is a tremendous amount of exciting news on these types of facilities as well as future health care deliveries.

To close this off, when phase 2 opens in April there will be 178 new beds available which will open up an equivalent amount of beds in our acute care hospitals. Additionally, the cost to house a patient in an acute care facility per day is \$975 compared to this

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Tom Taggart

Notes from our Provincial Capital

The following notes were extracted from my most recent newsletter. Commencing February 23rd, I will be attending the Legislature when it opens for the spring 2026 session.

Growth in Nova Scotia Tourism

Nova Scotia's tourism sector keeps growing. In the first nine months of 2025, it brought in \$3 billion in revenue, up 9 percent from last year. That's a strong sign of how far this industry has come and how important it is to our economy. We've welcomed 1.7 million tourists so far this year, with a big jump over the summer months.

Nova Scotia's tourism story is one of steady growth, new ideas and strong interest in what our province has to offer. Thank you to the countless tourism operators and those who continue to make Nova Scotia a world-class destination.

Energy Board to Conduct Investigation

We have called on the Nova Scotia Energy Board to conduct a thorough investigation into estimated billing, review the adequacy of consumer protections and communications, examine timelines for restoring accurate billing systems, and consider financial relief measures such as credits or bill-smoothing options for affected customers.

Review would determine whether any financial penalties apply and, if so, the maximum amount that may be levied. Protecting consumers and restoring confidence in our energy system remains our top priority.

Nova Scotia Exceeds University Healthcare Program Enrollment Target

Most universities have filled their healthcare programs this fall, surpassing the 97 per cent enrolment target set out in their funding agreements with the Province. The target was nearly 1,800 first-year students filling seats in 35 programs at six universities this year. Enrolment has instead risen to about 1,900 students as programs expanded to meet growing demand.

Under the 2025-27 bilateral agreements between the Province and universities, a portion of a university's operating grant is withheld until it demonstrates that 97 per cent of healthcare program seats are filled. Programs at Acadia, Cape Breton, Dalhousie, St. Francis Xavier and Mount Saint Vincent universities are operating above their original capacity to meet demand.

The Province also offers targeted incentives for students entering designated healthcare programs, such as free tuition, tuition relief, bursaries, and debt assistance, with specific supports varying by program.

RPNs to Practice in Nova Scotia

Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPNs) will soon be able to practice in Nova Scotia. This change will strengthen care for people living with mental health and substance use challenges across the province. RPNs bring specialized training and work in diverse settings, supporting people and families with complex needs.

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Dave Ritcey

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Upcoming Deadlines and Publishing Dates

Issue	Deadline	Published
March, 2026	February 17, 2026	February 25, 2026
April, 2026	March 24, 2026	April 1, 2026
May, 2026	April 21, 2026	April 29, 2026
June, 2026	May 19, 2026	May 27, 2026
July, 2026	June 23, 2026	July 1, 2026
August, 2026	July 21, 2026	July 29, 2026
September, 2026	August 18, 2026	August 26, 2026
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