

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

Tailor-made program to slash energy poverty

A new report by utility affordability expert Roger Colton proposes a tailor-made program to slash energy poverty rates in Nova Scotia. A Way Forward: A Made-in-Nova Scotia Home Energy Affordability Program, commissioned by the Nova Scotia Energy Poverty Task Force (NSEPTF), responds to the fact that forty-three per cent of Nova Scotians are struggling to pay their energy bills, the highest proportion in Canada.

The report recommends a four-part solution to apply a discount to home energy bills, fund a more realistic payment and forgiveness system for those in debt from energy bills, expand funding for when households face unexpected emergencies and increase home energy efficiency upgrades for low- and moderate-income households. Low- and moderate-income households, rural households, and households heated with oil are particularly vulnerable to energy poverty - when people are paying over six per cent of their after-tax income on heating and electricity. In a recent survey by Nova Scotia Power, nearly three in four homes in energy poverty delayed paying for necessities like groceries or medication to pay for power at home.

Bridge & Road Closures

Donaldson Bridge, French River on Lake Road, about three kilometres west of Tatamagouche, is closed until further notice. The detours are Trout Brook Road and Cooper Road. Old Truro Road, Tatamagouche from the Kennedy Hill intersection to Cross Road in North River is closed until further notice because of a large culvert failure. A detour is in place. Slade Road, Tatamagouche is closed between Lake Road and West Tatamagouche Road until further notice because of a bridge closure. A section of Route 366, Cumberland County is closed because of a culvert failure. Only local traffic is allowed from East Amherst to Port Howe. A detour is available via Trunk 6. The culvert is expected to be replaced this summer.

Coastal Protection and Restoration Forum

The North Shore Chapter of the Council of Canadians held a Community Forum concerning Coastal Protection and Restoration on Jun 17th. This event is a follow-up to a well-attended post-Fiona Community Forum. At that time community members raised concerns about the need to protect Northern Nova Scotia shorelines and the urgent need for government action, as well as the need for information on actions citizens can take to protect their properties. Along with public advertising, invitations were extended to Pictou, Cumberland and Colchester County Councillors, Warden and Mayor as well as MLAs Tory Rushton, Tom Taggart and Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin.

Pictou County Warden Robert Parker has served as Warden for the past eight years. In this position he continues to seek support beyond Pictou County to assure protection of Nova Scotia's shorelines, a concern that became more urgent after Hurricane Fiona with the likelihood of such events in the future.

Robin MacLennan shared her story and those of neighbours in Pictou County, both negative impacts of rock armouring and positive impacts of alternatives.

Ad campaign encourages visits to province

A new advertising campaign highlighting Nova Scotia communities and linking to the local film industry encourages travellers to visit the province. "We have an opportunity to leverage the great work the film industry is doing in Nova Scotia to raise awareness of our province with travellers," said Susan Corkum-Greek, Minister of Economic Development, on behalf of Allan MacMaster, Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage. "The film industry is an important part of our provincial economy, and this is a unique way to extend those benefits to further support tourism."

The first ads showcase locations around Nova Scotia and are playing during the popular Sullivan's Crossing series - filmed in Nova Scotia. According to the Motion Picture Association - Canada, member studios spent more than \$22 million on production-related goods and services at 505 Nova Scotia-based businesses in 2022.

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the \$150M of Canadian taxpayers' money disappeared somewhere in Japan.

BNTX

Moving along, who can forget the BNTX fiasco. Trudeau's Liberals awarded the company \$2 billion to distribute imported Covid-19 test kits. To obtain the contract, BNTX - with ties to China - falsified submitted test samples. Health Canada discovered the data was tainted. The agency went ahead anyway, awarding contracts for two years, thus allowing the company to become Canada's largest pandemic medical supplier. In the end, the entire Canadian supply was rendered useless because the product failed to meet standards.

ArriveCAN

Another boondoggle involves a \$55 million Liberal government contract with a 'two guys in a basement' who created ArriveCAN, a Covid traveler's information app - that aptly became known as ArriveScam. It's alleged to have been created over the course of a weekend. The app was subsequently shipped out to other companies, that also received pieces of the \$55-million pie. The app was fraught with so many deficiencies that even Justin Trudeau was scratching his head about the waste of money. Nothing has been done to retrieve the \$55M.

Opioid scandal

The Trudeau government's legislation decriminalizing simple hard drug possession by British Columbia addicts, and its \$11.2 million program to distribute free opioids to thousands of drug users, captured national attention when the province's Premier David Eby requested the federal government to reverse its policy.

What the Trudeau Liberals predicted to be a cure-all for B.C.'s drug problem, escalated into a crisis and eventually forced the government to abandon its ill-thought multi-million-dollar band-aid solution.

As I have said from the beginning, a Conservative Party solution is to spend money on detoxification centres and drug addict rehabilitation.

A government exposed

We have exposed the NDP/Liberal coalition's inability to gov-

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but needs more. These clinics can follow your care for as long as you need or refer you to the appropriate specialist.

And you can get care through a mobile clinic. We worked with Dr. John Ross to create clinics that travel the province delivering care. More than 20,000 Nova Scotians have chosen to get primary care this way.

You can find out when they'll be in your area by visiting <https://www.nshealth.ca/mobileprimarycareclinics> or calling 811.

Or you can go to an urgent treatment centre. There are now seven across the province that offer care for those who don't have a life-threatening emergency, but require urgent treatment, like

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The Brigade is very active with over 30 men and women volunteering as firefighters and medical first responders. A great mix of young and senior, members including young couples (which I see at many of the brigades I visit) There were 5 founding members of that Fire Brigade in attendance Bill MacLaughlin, Eric Moore, David Soley, Logan Elliott and Burchell Fulmore. They must have been so proud! When they and others founded this Brigade to protect their community 35 years ago would they have believed how strong and established the organization would be today.

Last night there was a wedding at the new Portpique Hall, today there is a variety show at the Hall in Bass River (I apologize that I cannot attend). These types of events happen in our com-

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counsellors and volunteer crisis responders. It is available by calling 1-800-668-6868 (toll-free) or texting CONNECT to 686868.

Tranquility - an online cognitive behavioural therapy program for people 16 or older with depression and anxiety. The 12-week program was co-developed by clinical psychologists and people with lived experience and includes education, interactive tools and coaching. More information is available at: <https://www.tranquility.app/novascotia>

Nova Scotia Volunteer Firefighter and Ground Search and Rescue Program - provides dedicated mental health and wellness support to these volunteer first responders and their families. It is available at: 1-833-768-2183 (toll-free)

ern. We have proven - without a doubt - that Trudeau's Carbon Tax is the baseline that illustrates the country is being driven in the wrong direction. The adverse effects are felt daily in the Cumberland-Colchester economy.

And with Trudeau's latest fiasco of so-called taxing the rich, it gets even worse.

First of all, 'the one per cent' that have far more than \$250,000 worth of taxable investments were tipped off about the increase that took effect June 25. Their money was moved 'offshore' soon after Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland rose in Parliament to announce the capital gains rate from one-half to two-thirds on gains per year for individuals, and on all gains realized by corporations and trusts.

Directly hit will be doctors, food producers and business owners. Using physicians as the model, as Leader Pierre Poilievre points out, "the tax increase will worsen the country's family doctor shortage because it will levy higher taxes on a physician's retirement savings - possibly driving these doctors to retire now or move their practices abroad."

My Conservative colleagues and I are fighting back, and we will eliminate this job-killing tax on health care, homebuilding, business, and farmers when we form government.

Summer schedule

With the House of Commons adjourned for the summer, I will be active on the ground in Cumberland-Colchester. I have always been a strong believer in participatory democracy, and I look forward to seeing as many folks as possible at upcoming events throughout the constituency. Summaries of my work are published in The Ellis Eyeopener e-newsletter. For a free subscription, go to drstephenellismp.com.

Together, we will work toward forming the next government, replacing nine years of Trudeau destructive mismanagement, with the four pillars of the Conservative Party: Axe the tax, Build the Homes, Fix the Budget, Stop the crime.

I am thankful daily for the trust you have placed in me, and I am honoured to be your Member of Parliament.

Dr Stephen Ellis is MP for Cumberland Colchester. He can be reached at: 902-895-2863, or E-mail: stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca

strains and sprains, earaches, mild respiratory issues or small lacerations.

In 2021 when we came into government, there were no expanded primary care clinics, no open urgent treatment centres, no mobile primary care clinics, no community pharmacy primary care clinics or pharmacy clinics. They didn't exist.

But in just three years we've put all this in place and so much more. All new access points. All to get you the care you need.

And we'll keep going. There is so much more to come.

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

munities regularly and they will increase over the summer. Picnics and festivals, strawberry and blueberry, Not Since Moses Run, Debert days, I could go on.

July 1 there will be celebrations and I encourage folks to take the time to reflect. Reflect on history! Reflect on the challenges faced and the growth of our communities and our people. Reflect on our future. Let's be proud, embrace and work together and make West Colchester stronger, prouder, open and prosperous.

In closing I want to congratulate all our recent graduates. The world is yours and you are our future. As you continue in life and explore, and find your future, never forget that West Colchester is home.

Tom Taggart, MLA represents Colchester North and can be reached at: tom.taggartmla@gmail.com or (0) - 902-641-2335

Recovery support centres - provide education, recovery and harm reduction support, along with one-on-one support and group treatment, for people struggling with substance use or gambling. In addition to on-site support, clinicians at the centre can link people to inpatient withdrawal management, opioid-use disorder treatment, community mental health and addictions programs and other supports available within communities. No appointment is necessary. Locations are at: <https://mha.nshealth.ca/en/services/recovery-support-centre>

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 mrlaritcey@bellaliant.com

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