

# Premier's Statement on Offshore Wind Update

(NOTE: The following is a statement from Premier Tim Houston in response to the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator releasing a list of companies pre-qualified to participate in Nova Scotia's first offshore wind call for bids. The list is available at: <https://cnsoer.ca/renewable-energy/offshore-wind-land-tenure-process-ns25-1r/offshore-wind-prequalification>.)

Nova Scotia's world-class offshore wind resource has captured the attention of international wind energy companies. Now pre-qualified by the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator, they can work on their proposals for Nova Scotia's first offshore wind call for bids, which will open later this year.

By attracting companies with the experience and know-how to deliver large energy projects, we are setting the stage for a successful offshore wind industry here at home.

Our Wind West plan represents a generational opportunity - one that will create good-paying local jobs, attract billions of dollars in new investment, generate new export revenues and drive significant economic growth across the region for decades.

This kind of growth will move us from a have not to a have province and create many new opportunities for our young people, small businesses and communities.

Today's news reinforces our confidence that Nova Scotia is ready to lead, and we look forward to the next steps as we harness the power of our winds, deliver clean energy to markets in need and realize our ambition to become an energy leader on the world stage.

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vention on International Trade in Endangered Species as a basis for banning trade in species that are considered "endangered." Clearly, Etsy finds it irrelevant that trade in these species is already strictly controlled.

Etsy then adds additional species, including bears, seals, and others, concluding with "certain additional at-risk animals". This vague phrase provides the wiggle room needed to effectively ban trade in any species it chooses.

Etsy's competitors are no better: eBay bans listing all species of bats, bears, marine mammals and migratory birds, while Meta (which owns Facebook and Instagram) bans the sale of "animal parts" from any species, with no reference to their conservation status.

The local craftspeople and Indigenous artisans whose platform is being pulled from under them will suffer if Etsy continues to ignore Canadians on this issue. Now is the time for those who work

with fur to think about their next step.

Make no mistake, whatever route those who work with fur decide to take, it will not be easy. They already have several hoops to jump through, and Etsy's departure from fur just adds one more. In the short term, they may switch to another e-commerce platform—and hope it doesn't draw the attention of the anti-fur lobby. If they have the skills, time, and money to spare, they may start selling their wares on their own websites, as some already are.

About a decade ago, both Etsy and Facebook banned the selling of seal products. The Fur Institute of Canada launched two online stores to fill the gap: Canadian Seal Products and Proudly Indigenous Crafts and Designs. Thanks to the free marketplace, small business owners can—and should—become Etsy's new competition.

**Doug Chiasson is Executive Director of the Fur Institute of Canada**

## Notes from our Provincial Capital Opportunities and Challenges Tour, Coming to a Community Near You

Sometimes being Premier is like that old Willie Nelson song, On the Road Again.

Recently, I've been on the road meeting with investors and business leaders to showcase the incredible opportunities here in Nova Scotia in energy, critical minerals and more.

These meetings are important because our Province needs the revenue in order to address our substantial provincial deficit and continue to invest in the services Nova Scotians expect like healthcare, homes and roads.

Which brings me to why this summer, I'll be on the road again.

Our Province is grappling with tough financial realities that led to difficult decisions being made in this year's budget.

We also have incredible economic opportunities, with

## Notes from our Provincial Capital Twists and turns follow graduation

One sure sign that we are heading into summer is graduations. As I drive around Colchester North it is wonderful to see all the signs on lawns and poles with families proudly announce that their sons and daughters will be graduating.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate these young graduates and wish them the very best as they step out in the next chapter of their life. This may sound like a cliché but you truly are our future. Some will go on to be doctors or lawyers, or technology experts. Some will work in the trades, some will be heavy equipment operators, farmers or fishers or public servants.

Opportunities abound and regardless of your choice you will fill a very important role in moving your community, this Province, this Country and this World forward. Life is a long journey and much has changed since I or your parents entered this stage of your life, there will

## Notes from our Provincial Capital In six months another solstice

Summer Days are here! Summer began with the solstice on Sunday, June 21, 2026, marking the astronomical first day of summer in the Northern Hemisphere.

The summer solstice or estival solstice occurs when one of Earth's poles has its maximum tilt toward the Sun. It happens twice yearly, once in each hemisphere (Northern and Southern).

The summer solstice is the day with the longest period of daylight and shortest night of the year in that hemisphere. At either pole there is continuous daylight at the time of its summer solstice. The opposite event is the winter solstice.

The summer solstice occurs during the hemisphere's summer. In the Northern Hemisphere, this is the June solstice (20 or 21 June) and in the Southern Hemisphere, this is the December solstice (21 or 22 December).

Now that we've had a solstice lesson, here is a round-

the federal government making big investments in defence, considering Nova Scotia hosts 40 per cent of the country's defense assets.

And, after years of saying "no" to opportunities in oil and gas and mining and critical minerals, we are seeing investments and momentum again.

This summer, I'll be visiting communities across the province as well as local chambers of commerce to discuss both the challenges and the opportunities facing our Province.

I want to hear from Nova Scotians and I want your suggestions. Some of the best ideas come from these conversations about what is possible.

We also need to have difficult conversations about how, in a world of rising costs, government can't be all



Tim Houston

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be lots of twists and turns. There will be rewarding time and undoubtedly some challenges. I have absolute faith that you will figure things out and provide a wonderful future for you, your families and our future.

Moving from those that are graduating to those that are just beginning. I am sure that those who regularly read these articles will recall me

speaking at times about the challenges faced by rural residents in securing services that are often more available in the urban core.

Today I get to speak of a true success story, the Lower Onslow Preschool. I was fortunate to receive an invitation to attend the official announcement that they will be building a new facility which will provide 50 additional spaces. This is this great news for the young families



Tom Taggart

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up of important things to Nova Scotians.

## Offshore Petroleum Exploration

Nova Scotia is moving forward with offshore exploration that could help create jobs, grow our economy, and strengthen our energy security.

A private sector bid worth \$210 million has secured two offshore petroleum exploration licenses in Nova Scotia waters, pending government approval. This is private investment focused on exploration and understanding what resources may exist offshore.

As we continue defending Nova Scotia's economy against President Trump's trade war and global uncertainty, attracting this kind of private investment helps create opportunity here at home and supports good-paying jobs for Nova Scotians.



Dave Ritcey

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# Now Boarding to Brussels: Air Canada Expands

Halifax's Global Reach New non-stop summer service connects Atlantic Canadians to Belgium and beyond.

A new chapter in transatlantic travel is taking off at Halifax Stanfield. Today, Air Canada launched new non-stop service between Halifax and Brussels, Belgium, adding a new European destination to Halifax Stanfield's growing international route network, creating more opportunities for Atlantic Canadians to connect with the

world.

Operating three times weekly from June 18 to September 5, this new service provides travellers with direct access to Belgium's vibrant capital city, known for its rich history, striking architecture, renowned culinary scene, and unique blend of cultures.

"We are proud to welcome Brussels to Halifax Stanfield's growing network of international destinations and are grateful to Air Canada for their continued investment in

our region," said Joyce Carter, President & CEO, Halifax International Airport Authority. "Each new international route strengthens our ties to the world, helping Atlantic Canada remain connected, competitive, and builds on Halifax Stanfield's position as the most internationally connected airport of its size in North America."

Beyond its attraction as a travel destination, Brussels is also a major centre for international business, diplomacy, and innovation. As the home of NATO

headquarters, the city plays an important role on the global stage. For Halifax, a recognized Canadian centre for defence, aerospace, ocean technology, and trade, the new route creates a direct link to one of Europe's most influential capitals.

The new service also creates convenient access to onward destinations across Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, while attracting more international visitors to Atlantic Canada and supporting tourism, local businesses, and economic growth across the region.

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