

The Shoreline Journal

Tid-Bits

Short reads of important stories.

Family Practice Registry - June 2026 Update

As of June 1, there are 60,579 Nova Scotians on the Need a Family Practice Registry. The last published number was on May 1, when there were 60,193 Nova Scotians on the registry.

By the end of May, the number of Nova Scotians on the registry increased by 386. This number reflects the cumulative result of activity on the registry since its creation, including registrations, attachments to family doctor or nurse practitioner, and other updates to registration status over time. The percentage of the population on the registry is 5.5%. Nova Scotia Health will next update the registry in early July. To learn more about the Need a Family Practice Registry, or to register, confirm your registration, update your information, or remove your request, please visit <https://needafamilypractice.nshealth.ca>.

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.

Vaccine Booking Now Available at 811

Nova Scotians can now book many vaccines by calling 811. Starting June 23, the following booking options are available for publicly funded vaccines including COVID-19, influenza, adult respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), pneumococcal, shingles and meningococcal B: by calling 811; online at: <https://novascotia.ca/vaccination>; through a family doctor, nurse practitioner or family practice nurse or through a local public health office: <https://www.nshealth.ca/public-health>.

The previous vaccine booking line - 1-833-797-7772 - will continue to be available for Nova Scotians who need to book a COVID-19 test, report a positive COVID-19 test to access treatment, or need support to access STI Care Now, a program offering testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. Callers to this line looking to book a publicly funded vaccine will be redirected to 811.

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News from our Provincial Council - Tim Houston

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things to all people. The solution to every problem cannot be more government involvement. And if we want more government investments, then that has to mean growing our provincial revenue.

This summer, we will discuss how we can develop our natural resources safely. I care deeply about the environment and I know that we can use modern technology to ensure we protect the environment and grow our econ-

omy. These projects will mean good jobs in communities that will offer Nova Scotians opportunities at home, instead of out west.

I'm looking forward to having frank conversations about what is possible because I truly believe that Nova Scotia's best days are ahead of us.

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

News from our Provincial Capital - Dave Ritcey

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Cape Breton Medical Campus Opens

May 14 marked a major milestone as the new medical sciences building - the learning hub for the Cape Breton Medical Campus - officially opens at Cape Breton University.

The campus - a partnership with Dalhousie faculty of medicine and CBU - welcomed its first cohort of students last August, a significant step forward in training the next generation of doctors.

The medical campus will train up to 30 new family doctors each year. Under return-of-service agreements, the students - who are from rural Nova Scotia communities - have committed to practise family medicine in rural areas of the province after they graduate.

The new facility features modern learning environments with advanced technology for connected classrooms, a full anatomy lab and a state-of-the-art clinical simulation centre.

The inaugural class started their learning in a temporary space at the former Nova Scotia Community College campus nearby while the medical sciences building was under construction.

The Province's investment in the campus also includes an expanded Nancy Dingwall Health and Counselling Centre and a new health home that will offer primary care to residents and clinical training for medical students.

Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund

Applications for the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund opened May 28, with priority given to projects that address drought and water shortages. The Province also launched a new data portal with information on Nova Scotia's ground and surface water resources. Being water resilient means being prepared for dry periods so that when water is limited, the impacts are smaller, easier to manage or avoided altogether.

Some examples of water resiliency projects that could be eligible for the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund include: community wells (new or expanded); backup water systems such as cisterns or large-scale water storage containers for essential buildings like community centres, emergency shelters and fire departments; community water conservation infrastructure such as rainwater harvesting and non-potable water reuse systems; engineering and hydrogeological studies to better understand water resources to inform adaptation planning; regional, shared or linked water supply solutions, including water pipelines and using nature, including plants, soil and wetlands, to help manage water in a sustainable way.

About \$6.3 million is available in this round of funding for municipalities, non-profit and community organizations, post-secondary institutions and Mi'kmaw communities. Deadline for applications is July 23, 2026.

Mobile Health & Wellness Clinics

Check out the upcoming clinics and programs being offered by the Northern Zone Mobile Health and Wellness Team! They offer ongoing clinics, health and wellness programs and one-on-one consults to help meet the needs of communities across the Northern Zone.

Nurse Practitioner Clinics: Prescription refills or renewals; Minor respiratory concerns, sore throat, ear-aches, rashes; GI symptoms (vomiting, diarrhea), flu/cold symptoms; UTIs, muscle pain, minor pelvic or abdominal pain and Blood pressure management, smoking cessation

Nursing & Virtual Urgent Care Clinics: Prescription refills (except for controlled substances); Sinus congestion, coughs and sore throat, urinary tract infections, skin concerns; bites and stings, mild/moderate aches and pains, and other conditions and Virtual Urgent Care connects you to a physician or nurse practitioner via tablet with local, in-person follow-up and assessment from our team, including a family practice nurse and/or pharmacist.

Health & Wellness Sessions

Group programs covering a range of topics including healthy eating, physical activity, mental health, managing health risks and more. To see calendars of upcoming clinics and programs, visit: <http://nshealth.ca/.../northern-zone-mobile-health-and-...>

Improving Connection to Primary Care

As of May 1, there are 60,193 Nova Scotians on the Need a Family Practice Registry, representing 5.5% of the population.

This reflects a continued downward trend as we strengthen access to primary care through initiatives like PACE, the Cape Breton University Medical School, and ongoing recruitment and retention efforts across the province.

Since April 1, 1,754 fewer Nova Scotians are on the registry. This change is driven by a combination of people being connected to primary care providers, updated registry information, and system improvements that ensure more accurate tracking over time.

It is important to note that movement on the registry reflects both successful attachments to care and updates that remove outdated or duplicate entries. Together, these changes show ongoing progress in improving access to primary care.

There is still more work to do to ensure every Nova Scotian can access primary care.

If you are on the registry, please make sure your information is up to date so you can be reached when a provider becomes available. You can update or confirm your details here:

<https://needafamilypractice.nshealth.ca>

Learn more here: <https://www.nshealth.ca/.../need-family-practice-registry...>

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

This month, the *Shoreline Journal* and *South Cumberland News*, is experimenting with a slightly larger text font/type used within most of the articles you will enjoy in July. Your comments are welcome. We hope you are pleased with our choice. Please feel free to email us at maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

Deadline for the August issue of The Shoreline Journal is July 21.

Guardian

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