

# REES' Pieces

## Four Promises to Ensure More Productive Discussions

There is a lot of change coming. Most of us do not like change. When you look behind the scenes, there is a lot to like once you get over the shock, "change is coming" and I am going to adjust to make it even more positive for everyone.

As we face these transitional times, there are a few adjustments we need to make personally, and promise ourselves these adjustments will be "our personal way of life for eternity". Simply described our personal changes include: Humility: we will be human like, also always kind and considerate of others, even though we disagree; Listen: we must learn to put our tongue on hold, open our ears and think with an open mind until the other person has completed their thoughts; Body language: lean into the other person's conversation and look them in the eye making sure there is good eye contact. Do not sit back with arms folded, or looking out the window with disinterest. Avoid barriers: Try to avoid sitting across the desk or table. Try to arrange seating so chairs are facing one another without any barriers.

If we are able to maintain continuity with these four simple actions, you will be amazed at how much more comfortable things were during what on many historic occasions was a tense few minutes. Once used to these personal changes your success rate of more productive discussions and negotiations will soar.

I mention these tactical changes, because The time is arriving soon, if Nova Scotians want to overcome much or all of the negativity all around us nationwide, south of the border and globally. The unrest around the world is because people are waking up to the fact those elected to make things better and look out for us have failed us and things could get worse.

The concentration of power and wealth has worsened in the last 20 years and is raging at breakneck speed in the last decade. The proof is in the pudding that "top down" needs to be made extinct. My assumption is we have less than five years to implement "bottom up - Grass Roots" finely tuned and working when we as common citizens take back our lives back and work as a United group for the betterment and economic growth of our community.

Yes, we have villages, rural areas side by side of which we are all very proud, as we should be. But for the purpose of "Bottom Up - Grassroots" think of "community" as the Municipal electoral district where you live.

I mention all the foregoing, because I came across two events which are exactly what needed to maximize betterment and economic growth in Cumberland and Colchester and perhaps East Hants.

If Cumberland and Colchester are going to be host to a successful global UNESCO GeoPark a lot needs to be done in all areas. It was the highlight of my week when I opened an email from Will Bollwerk (He/They), Community Engagement Coordinator, Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark. Will has organized the type of "grass roots" community needed not only so Cliffs of Fundy GeoPark can start to be successful.

### Here's a bit of information about them:

- May 16-18 (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM): Advocate Harbour, Driftwood Beach Scotian Shores is leading a massive cleanup effort at Driftwood Beach. They will also be hosting a workshop on repurposing found objects on the evening of May 16 at the Advocate Fire Hall.
- May 21 (10:00 AM): Wa'soq (Partridge Island) Our incredible community volunteer, Jo-Ann Hunter, has been working tirelessly with a crew to clean this beach.
- Welcome to Debris to Design, a collaborative stewardship initiative between the Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark and Parrsboro Creative. Our mission is to transform the narrative of shoreline pollution into a story of community-driven restoration.

Will's community engagement talent needs to be expanded to all sectors of the two municipalities into a finely tuned grassroots machine, because it is needed and every sector forms part of the UNESCO Geo Park's success.

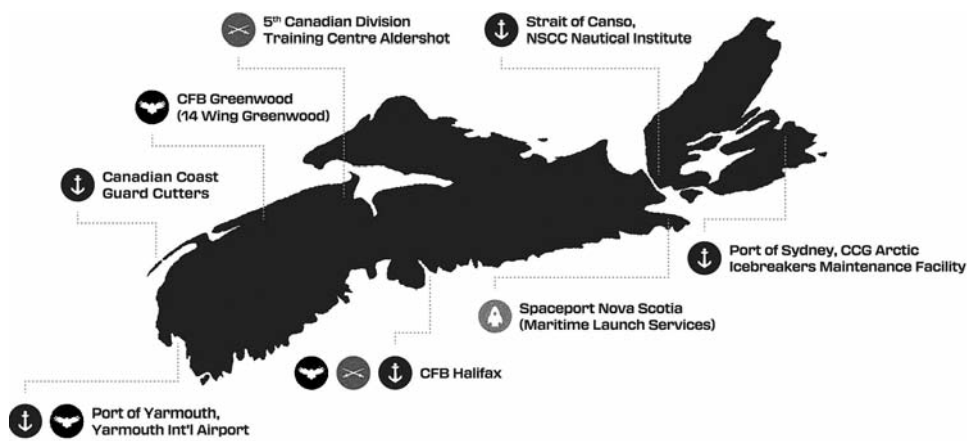
Maurice

## OP-ED

By Premier Tim Houston  
(NOTE: The following is a statement from Premier Tim Houston in response to Prime Minister Mark Carney's announcement on defence investments, March 26; the news release about the announcement is at: [releases/2026/03/26/prime-minister-carney-announces-canada-has-achieved-nato-2-defence](https://releases/2026/03/26/prime-minister-carney-announces-canada-has-achieved-nato-2-defence))

When Prime Minister Mark Carney announced his commitment to increase investment in Canada's defence sector, I let him know: Nova Scotia is ready to lead. Nova Scotians have always answered the call. At sea, on land and in the air.

I'm sure, in part, that's why the Prime Minister chose Nova Scotia to make this significant investment in defence. We are Canada's capital of defence, and that didn't happen by accident. It happened because of who and where we are.



## Nova Scotia leading Canada's Defence Industrial Strategy

I'm thrilled that, Prime Minister Carney is recognizing what Nova Scotia has to offer to successfully implement Canada's Defence Industrial Strategy. The announcement includes about \$2 billion for major, targeted investments that will modernize critical infrastructure, build new facilities, and support the next generation of naval and air fleets.

Thank you for recognizing Nova Scotia as the most logical place to invest billions of dollars in defence. Growing up in a military family, I know first-hand what this investment will mean for our military personnel.

As Canada continues to implement its new defence strategy, and future investments are identified, Nova Scotia will be ready to contribute as Canada's capital of defence.

Nova Scotia is trusted with projects that will support the future of Canada and our allies' security. NATO selected Halifax as the home for its

North American headquarters for the Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic.

Canada selected Dartmouth for the first Maritime Defence Innovation Secure Hub and announced an investment in a dedicated space launch pad near Canso - a \$200 million deal. We're also building Canada's River-class destroyers, and the next generation of ice breakers for the northern patrol.

Six of Canada's top 10 defence companies operate in Nova Scotia, and we stand ready to sustain Canada's next fleet of submarines and the growing air force assets in Greenwood. Our well-established and growing financial tech sector is supporting Canada's bid to be the host of the Defence, Security and Resilience Bank (DSRB).

Nova Scotia's established military presence, integrated supply chain, renowned universities and research capabilities, and highly skilled

workforce are all critical ingredients to our success in defence.

As world events continue to demonstrate why these investments are necessary, Nova Scotia is ready to protect and serve a free and strong Canada.

As our country stands in the face of uncertainty, and looks toward the future, the heart of Canada's defence beats right here, in Nova Scotia. Where we're proud to be Canada's capital of defence.

**Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia can be reached at:**  
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## \$13.8-million Federal Funding to Support 1,572 Workers

### New Support for Workers, Businesses Affected by Tariffs, Global Trade Changes

Nova Scotia workers and businesses affected by global market shifts, trade changes and tariffs will have access to new training and income supports - funded by the federal government and delivered through provincial programs - will be available to those in export-related industries such as steel, softwood lumber, fisheries and seafood, agri-food and others.

"This is about putting workers first," said Nolan Young, Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration. "Global tariffs and market changes are creating uncertainty for some industries, and we're stepping up to help."

We're making sure Nova Scotians have the training, support and opportunities they need to keep working, build new skills and move into new opportunities."

The \$13.8-million federal Workforce Tariff Response Fund was announced on May 12. Over the next three years, the investment will support up to 1,572 workers who have been directly or indirectly affected by tariffs and global market shifts.

Support will be delivered through provincial programs and will focus on: Unemployed workers looking to gain skills for in-demand jobs; workers in Work-Sharing Program agreements who can expand their skill set or retrain while their hours are reduced and



employed workers who need new skills to stay competitive in companies affected by tariffs and global market shifts, including those in supply chains and single-industry communities.

This support means businesses will be able to keep people working and/or help workers move into new roles.

The Province will work closely with industry partners, sector councils and the federal government to ensure programs respond to local workforce needs and are easy to access.

Nova Scotia's economy has remained relatively resilient since new global tariffs were put in place last year, with many sectors adapting and finding new markets.

This funding builds on that strength by providing targeted support where pressures are emerging - helping workers and businesses stay ahead of change.

Nova Scotia's unemployment rate was 6.3 per cent as of April; it was 7.2 per cent in April 2025. The federal government invests more than \$100 million annually in Nova Scotia through labour market agreements.

The Shoreline Journal (circ. 1650) is a monthly community newspaper serving communities along the Glooscap Trail from Truro to Parrsboro, Nova Scotia serving the communities of Belmont/Debert, Wentworth/Londonderry, Onslow/Masstown along the shore to Great Village, Bass River, Economy, Five Islands and Lower Five Islands. It is published on the last Wednesday of each month (earlier in December) with a deadline of the 20th of the month.

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