



IESO Nova Scotia Takes Next Step to Secure Capacity

IESO Nova Scotia is continuing to move quickly to secure critical and cost-effective generation capacity to meet the province's future electricity demand. The independent energy system operator has signed a term sheet with NB Power that secures Nova Scotia the option to contract 100 megawatts of fast-acting generation capacity from a new facility planned for Centre Village, New Brunswick.

The term sheet outlines the opportunity for IESO Nova Scotia to join the project when a final agreement is reached, which would allow Nova Scotia to access this capacity for a 10-year term, starting as early as 2028.

Nova Scotia's last Integrated Resource Plan and the provincial government's Clean Power Plan have both identified a critical need for fast-acting generation capacity to keep our grid reliable amidst growing electricity demand and continued progress toward the target to eliminate coal by 2030.

The proposed Centre Village facility will bring 10 fast-acting dual-fuel turbines online, with eight being dedicated to generating 400

megawatts of capacity for the province of New Brunswick, and the remaining two units being allocated to generating 100 megawatts of capacity for Nova Scotia, providing IESO Nova Scotia reaches a final agreement with NB Power.

IESO Nova Scotia is a not-for-profit created by provincial law to take on electricity system planning and real-time grid operations on behalf of Nova Scotians. IESO Nova Scotia will be responsible for planning for the province's future energy needs, procuring new electricity generation capacity, and purchasing and dispatching power from producers, including Nova Scotia Power. IESO Nova Scotia is independent of governments, utilities, and power producers, meaning decisions will be driven only by Nova Scotians' needs. With a mandate to bring transparency and competition to the province's electricity market, IESO Nova Scotia's singular focus is to improve reliability, accelerate the transition to renewable energy, and secure the most cost-effective electricity possible for Nova Scotians. IESO Nova Scotia began operations in 2025.



Amendments to Personnel Policy 3.01 Salary Administration

On February 12 Council Committee approved recommendations to update the current Salary Administration Policy to reflect current processes and up-to-date Human Resource best practices. The last update to this policy occurred in 2014.

Some of the Key Proposed Changes: More specific guidelines around what information is to be included in job descriptions; New and amended job descriptions require Director approval rather than CAO approval; Job evaluation categories expanded, to better encompass all facets of a job; Clarification job evaluations pertain to the job and not the employee; Changes the compensation review schedule from every two (2) years to every four (4) years, with consideration for the capacity and resources required to conduct this year long process and Clarifies how new hire starting salary steps are determined and allows for candidates with varying types of backgrounds and qualifications.

Amendments to Personnel Policy 5.04 Performance Review

Council committee approved recommendations updating the current Performance Review Policy to reflect current processes, up-to-date Human Resource best practices, and the recent change from paper based to online based performance reviews.

The Policy had not been updated since 2014. Key proposed changes:

- Specific timing around the probationary performance review for new hires is clarified.
- A process and expectations for performance coaching is added, creating expectations for management around managing performance in between annual reviews.
- A process and expectations for developing and carrying out a Performance Improvement Plan is added, creating a plan for when a performance concern escalates.
- Term and student employees are accounted for in the Policy, instead of only full and part time employees being mentioned.
- Review meetings occurring at the end of the annual review period, and including goals setting.
- The option of employees bringing a union representative or support person to their performance review meeting is clearly stated.

News from our Provincial Capital - Tom Taggart Continued from page 5

Increases in the number of available long term care beds such as the transition care center in Bedford which I wrote about recently have reduced the numbers of patients remaining in hospital acute care beds. This not only freed up beds and reduced backlogs in emergency departments but created significant savings. In comparison, it was reported last month that New Brunswick where they did not invest in long term care are currently in a critical situation where 40% of their acute care beds are filled with patients waiting for transfer to long term care. There is still a lot to do, however we will continue to support our residents and transform our health care and long-term care systems. These are challenges faced by Governments across Canada.

Certainly, the recent announcement the province's credit rating has received a downgrade is worrisome. This past week in Public Accounts we had senior leadership at the Department of Finance as witnesses. In an effort to better understand our financial situation they faced tough questioning.

While recognizing the downgrade is disappointing, as committee member, I was relieved to find out with respect to debt and the impact it has on our ability to grow our Province and support our residents there were two points I came away with. First, respecting Canadian provinces, all facing similar challenges, Nova Scotia continues to be ranked up there with other leading provinces. When asked about the impact on our ability to borrow,

Province Opposes Nova Scotia Power's Rate Request

The Province continues to urge the Nova Scotia Energy Board to reject the residential electricity rate increase proposed by Nova Scotia Power for 2026-27. The utility submitted its response to closing statements by intervenors on February 6. Nothing in this submission changes the Province's position.

"Electricity is a basic neces-

sity and people in Nova Scotia are already struggling to pay their bills," said Premier Tim Houston. "This outoftouch request for a residential rate increase should be denied. Nova Scotia Power needs to prioritize improving its performance and rebuilding public confidence."

In its closing statement on January 30, the Province said

we were given the following explanation: When Governments, Canadian Government or other Provinces need to borrow or raise capital, they issue bonds which are purchased by investors. Typically, Nova Scotia issues \$300-Million at a time. The bond market or investors make decisions on what or who's bonds to purchase based on long term sustainability, and financial planning.

With this in mind it is comforting demand for N S bonds is currently very strong resulting in increased issuance of up to \$500-Million. As I did last month, I encourage residents who are interested to google N S Legislative TV, go to 2026 archives and click on Public Accounts committee. You will find it very informative as senior public servants are questioned on current topics, typically those raised by Nova Scotia Auditor General

As I stated earlier, we went back in the Legislature on Monday Feb 23 to present the budget. It will be a difficult budget! Already we are seeing cuts to what I refer to as non-core programs. Some of these cuts or reorganization of departments will undoubtedly impact residents of Colchester North or impact programs residents care about. That is truly disappointing.

However, difficult decisions must be made. As your MLA, I am fully supportive of the leadership of our government and confident in the future growth and prosperity of Colchester North and Nova Scotia.

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Transportation Presentation

By **Maurice Rees**

Date Presented: **February 12, 2026**

Colchester Council Committee received a 'Active Transportation Strategy' presentation from consultants, Jamie Hilland and Owen Sieffert with Urban Systems of the first at its committee meeting on February 12th. The consultant's presentation was to present the network and receive initial feedback from council before the second round of public and interest holder engagement takes place.

There is a google map version of the draft Network available:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1Ov2LXWvSVkhXwZDfyKOCMTyMooU4L2Y&usp=sharing>

The consultants explained The ATS Vision, Goals + Actions + Network document is a draft

document, it will only be finalized after the second round of public and interest holder engagement and adoption by council.

The second round of public and interest holder engagement has been scheduled for the week of March 23rd, 2026. Council will be provided with a list of the engagement events, times and locations at least one week in advance.

Village of Tatamagouche is currently working with TRACE Planning & Design to develop an Active Transportation Plan. Their plans are in the draft phase they have not been shown in the material tonight but opportunities for connections are being considered.

Consultants concluded the Truro Active Transportation Plan is similarly not shown but has been considered in the Network development.

the utility has not demonstrated residential rate increase is "just and reasonable" under the Public Utilities Act and encouraged the board to take a number of actions, including: set the utility's return on equity at 7.6 per cent to reduce pressure on ratepayers; treat securitization as unproven unless there is clear benefit to ratepayers; conduct

a transparent review on how assets are valued and question the need for 507 additional fulltime equivalent positions in 2026

"The energy board's role is to make sure power rates are fair and reasonable," said Premier Houston. "Our position is straightforward: before Nova Scotians are asked to pay more, the utility needs to show better performance and greater transparency."

DALHOUSIE SKI + SNOWBOARD CLUB Urban Rail Jam February 27

(NOTE: We have included this short article about a Halifax event as an example how rural communities or various organizations could organize winter activities - to get rid of the "winter blues" and hold a fund raiser, which is educational for our youth)

The Dalhousie Ski + Snowboard Club is partnering with Maritime Jibbers, with support from Red Bull Canada, to host an urban rail jam at Gorsebrook Park (Halifax) on February 27th, 2026, from 6-8 pm. Rail jams are freestyle

ski/snowboard competitions where contestants perform tricks on park features to compete for judges.

The event will include the competition, some vendor booths and a raffle draw. Red Bull Canada will also be providing their DJ Jeep for some tunes! We're a small team hoping to raise awareness of inclusion in skiing and snowboarding, showcase how the Halifax community rallies to combat winter blues, and raise money for the continuation of our student Club.

We Need People

In 2026 The Shoreline Journal team wants to expand its coverage area to include a greater portion or all of Colchester and its eleven electoral districts. No, we are not thinking one newspaper to cover the entire county. Our preference is a network, based on adjoining electoral districts.

One major holdback to Colchester's continued aggressive growth is lack of a strong communication's vehicle / tool, which would enable businesses, community groups and residents to communicate with one message from one end of the municipality to the other. Yes, there are existing communication tools, but as good as they are they serve small geographical areas or special interest groups.

Our goal is to develop an electoral based community-based newspaper network serving all of the Municipality of the County of Colchester whether it be a weekly, twice monthly or once a month. Some electoral districts might have their own paper, while economies of scale might require adjoining districts be grouped together. The business community and market will determine what is economically possible. The ability to sustainability communicate county-wide is paramount and this can be done with several newspapers by having common pages.

Research has proven in rural areas like Colchester, as strong as they are, a traditional newspaper, is the most effective and most economical of all possibilities. Television and radio are important and necessary, but are fractured and not one has the capability to cover the municipality like a blanket, which a newspaper can. Social media is also important, but all county residents do not have access, and do not use the technology as a source of county-wide news and notices.

Strategically, we are ready to go, but we need people.

We are looking for those who wish to augment their income or serve their community by joining our team for: **Advertising sales**; local news **correspondents/writers**; free lance **photographers**; a **contributing writer** for their organization; local **subscription sales agents** (could be local organization, which to conduct subscription fund-raising campaign); **delivery agents** to deliver papers to the stores and collect for revenues for each issue sales. Many of these positions are work-from-home on part-time basis.

Limited opportunities for those who want their community to succeed and might wish to be an investor or partner.

If you are interested, before March 31, 2026, please

contact: Maurice Rees, Publisher, at:

maurice@theshorelinejournal.com, or cell: 902-890-9850.

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