

\$4-Million; 9 projects; 24 jobs

The world is changing rapidly. The international rules-based order is fading, and technological change is expanding the fields of conflict. The Government of Canada is responding by rebuilding and reinvesting in the Canadian Armed Forces and strengthening the defence industrial base. Through Canada's first Defence Industrial Strategy, the government is aligning long-term defence investments with industrial capability to support Canadian businesses, strengthen supply chains, and reinforce Canada's role as a trusted ally. These generational investments will modernize Canada's defence ecosystem, create good, well-paying jobs, and ensure the Canadian Armed Forces have the equipment they need to keep Canada safe, and sovereign.

In Atlantic Canada, this includes targeted investments that are supporting local companies, creating jobs, and building long-term industrial capacity. Strengthening Atlantic Canada's defence capabilities in Nova Scotia Regional Defence Investment Initiative supports businesses to grow, innovate and scale up for global defence opportunities.

The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, announced a federal investment of more than \$4 million to support nine projects in Nova Scotia under the Regional Defence Investment Initiative (RDII).

The investment will help the following organizations to develop and manufacture critical equipment and technologies here in Nova Scotia, as well as create 24 new highly skilled jobs and strengthen local companies within Canada's defence and security supply chains: Sensor Technology Ltd.; Mathers Logistics Ltd.; Salient Energy Inc.; AML Oceanographic Ltd.; GALAXIA Mission Systems; Marine Thinking Inc.; Atlantic Hardchrome Limited; L & M Highland Outfitters Limited and Leeway Marine.

The Government of Canada is providing an investment of more than \$4 million under the Regional Defence Investment Initiative (RDII) to nine businesses in Nova Scotia. Details of the scope of work and funding totalling \$4,030,867 follows:

Sensor Technology Ltd. - To design and build software and hardware for its AI Thinline Towed Array, hiring eight skilled engineers, and project and export specialists. \$1,300,000 (repayable).

Mathers Logistics Ltd. - To purchase specialized heavy-lift equipment to move and stack shipping cargo more efficiently, creating three jobs and supporting growth in defence logistics. \$956,250 (repayable).

Salient Energy Inc. - To develop Canada's first commercial-grade zinc-ion battery cell for marine defence and clean energy applications, while also creating five jobs. \$843,531 (repayable).

AML Oceanographic Ltd. - To expand into a new production facility where it will design, manufacture and test its ocean data collection system, increasing production capacity and creating one job. \$387,500 (repayable).

GALAXIA Mission Systems - To grow the engineering team and upgrade its facility to expand satellite manufacturing and grow exports.

\$218,750 (repayable).

Marine Thinking Inc. - To design and bring to market a launch and recovery system for remotely operated vehicles. \$179,836 (repayable).

Atlantic Hardchrome Limited - To hire expertise to develop a product plan for manufacturing, testing, and repairing specialized components for submarine control systems. \$50,000 (non-repayable).

L & M Highland Outfitters Limited - To purchase automated sewing equipment to boost productivity, lower costs, and fulfill a significant Canadian defense contract, resulting in four new jobs. \$50,000 (repayable).

Leeway Marine - To hire expertise to develop a strategic plan and roadmap for its new unmanned surface vehicle. \$45,000 (non-repayable).

Notes from our Federal Capital No veteran is losing eligibility for services

February was one of those months that reminded me why I dared to put my hand up and ask for this job in the first place. Not because everything went smoothly — but because each and every week I found more people rolling up their sleeves and jumping in to work on real solutions to real problems. From farmland to the floor of the House of Commons, kitchen tables and community foundations — this month was proof that when people decide to put their egos aside and work together, we can still get good things done.

Let me start with an update on Veterans issues. After several months of talking about the Ralston Armoury in Amherst — and meeting with Veterans groups throughout Cumberland and Colchester Counties, I took my Private Members Motion to the floor of the House of Commons this month. The idea is straightforward: the federal government owns properties across this country that aren't being used to their potential. At the same time, veterans need coordinated support — hous-

ing, mental health services, peer support, career counselling — and they shouldn't have to criss-cross the province to get it. My motion (Motion M-16) asks Parliament how we can systematically transform surplus federal lands and buildings into community hubs that actually serve the women and men who wore the uniform. And I'm proud to say the motion has the government's support.

This isn't patchwork. This is the beginning of a national strategy. Imagine the Ralston Armoury becoming a veteran resource centre: affordable housing units, mental health offices, meeting rooms for local veterans' groups, and a revamped museum honouring the Highlanders' legacy. That's not a fantasy. That's what being strategic and intentional with the assets we already own looks like. And buildings like it exist in ridings from coast to coast to coast.



Alana Hirtle

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Notes from our Provincial Capital Nova Scotia's Energy Future Being Held Back

Nova Scotia Power has announced there will be a new CEO taking over shortly.

While I wish the new CEO more success than his predecessors, I am concerned this announcement is less about real change and more about deflecting from a long-standing pattern of failure. Successive CEOs have been unable to deliver reliable, affordable power for Nova Scotians, all while collecting excessive amounts of personal data and then seemingly failing to adequately protect it.

Time will tell whether this CEO is prepared to break that cycle — or whether NSP will continue to do what it has done for years: ask households for more at a time when many are already struggling.

This CEO transition will take place as the independent Nova Scotia Energy Board decides on NSP's most recent request for a rate increase.

The Board is essentially the judge and jury in this situation. They are a group of well-paid experts who are responsible for making these

decisions. They make their own, independent decisions and do not take orders from the government. As Nova Scotians, we have to live with their decision. If a government were to take the extraordinary step to overrule the regulator, it would risk creating chaos in the market. This is especially damaging at a time when we are working to generate good-paying jobs in Nova Scotia by pointing to a strong, stable regulatory regime.

This is why I have worked hard to show them evidence and make the case that the requested increase must be rejected. My position has not changed: The Board should reject the requested power rate increase that they are currently considering.

On February 6, Nova Scotia Power filed its final arguments in this latest rate case, and the message is the same as always: the monopoly



Tim Houston

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Notes from our Provincial Capital Congratulations to our young ambassadors

I would like to begin this article by Congratulating Liam Moffat of Folly Lake. This young man is currently representing Canada at the 2026 Olympics underway in Italy. This is an outstanding accomplishment!!!! Additionally, I would like to send best wishes to a team of young men who will represent Canada at the Under 21 World Curling Championship in Denmark. Team MacIsaac curling out of the Truro Curling Club. Team Members are Skip: Calan MacIsaac Truro, Third: Nathan Gray Dartmouth, second: Owain Fisher of North River, lead: Chris McCurdy of Old Barns, alternate Nick Mosher of Hammond Plains and Coach Craig Burgess of Colchester South. Congratulations to Liam Moffat and Team MacIsaac, your years of dedication and hard work are paying off.

Two days ago, February 23 we returned to the Legislature and Finance Minister Lohr will present his budget. It is no secret this 2026 / 2027 budget will be a deficit budget. Our government is

faced with the very difficult decision of whether to continue to invest in Nova Scotians or to reduce services and present a balanced budget. The Premier and Minister Lohr have indicated they will continue to invest in Nova Scotians. In fact, Premier Houston has said that he is prepared to run a deficit the next 2 years.

Our government was elected in 2021 on a pledge to improve Health Care. This is a huge challenge and we are moving in the right direction. When first elected in 2021 investment in Health and Long term was \$5.1 Billion. This past fiscal we invested 8.3 billion, resulting in an 80% increase in doctors coming to N S, Nurse Practitioners are up 390% and registered nurses are up 260%. Resulting in reduced surgical wait times and reduced the number on the N S need a doctor wait list.



Tom Taggart

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Notes from our Provincial Capital Legislature open.....constantly in Halifax

When the spring legislature opened on February 23rd, it meant I will constantly be in Halifax attending to my ministerial duties, plus attending the legislature until the session ends. My constituency office staff will be able to advise and assist with all your concerns and problems. The following is a recap of various things, I feel are important to my constituents and all Nova Scotians.

New Program to Develop Local Fuel, Lower Power Rates

The Province is engaging Dalhousie University to oversee the Subsurface Energy Research and Development Investment Program. The university will lead research efforts to better understand the nature and location of the resource and to track and develop guidelines to ensure exploration and development are done responsibly. The \$30-million program will help kick-start the province's onshore natural gas industry after a decade of inaction and inactivity, bringing jobs and investment to the province.

First steps include Dalhousie establishing an oversight committee of people with experience in energy development, including representation from academia, the public, the Department of Energy, First Nations and the energy industry.

The university will also lead communication with the public before research starts and manage ongoing stakeholder engagement. The university will set qualification criteria for companies and issue an open call for project proposals. After applications are evaluated, the Province will negotiate agreements with successful proponents to determine the amount of provincial investment. Proponents must secure all applicable permits and approvals before exploration or production begins.



Dave Ritcey

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News from our Municipal Council - District 9 Debert Legion Friday night supper return

One of the things I appreciate most about District 9 is how engaged and supportive our communities are. From milestone celebrations to important public meetings and local fundraisers, people continue to show up for one another. That strong sense of community is something we should all be proud of.

Council, staff, and consultants have been actively working on an Active Transportation Strategy for Colchester to support safe and inclusive ways of walking, rolling, and cycling throughout our communities. Consultants from Urban Systems recently presented the first draft of the strategy to Council. I believe they listened carefully during interviews with councillors and captured our thoughts about the unique needs of our respective districts. Public engagement sessions were also held and appeared to be well received.

A second round of public engagement sessions is scheduled for the week of March 23rd. I will share the details on my District 9

Facebook page and other platforms as soon as they are available. I encourage residents to attend and provide feedback — your input truly helps shape the final plan.

On January 24th, the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade celebrated an incredible 65th anniversary. The unwavering dedication and courage shown by members, day after day and call after call, is admirable. On behalf of District 9, I extend a heartfelt thank you for your continued service to our communities.

On February 18th, the OBFB also hosted a community information session I organized with representatives from Nova Scotia Power. Eight representatives attended to share information on reliability improvements and to discuss the Wasoqonatl Transmission Line. It was a productive evening



Marie Benoit

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Notice to Readers and Advertisers

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Issue	Deadline	Published
April, 2026	March 24, 2026	April 1, 2026
May, 2026	April 21, 2026	April 29, 2026
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July, 2026	June 23, 2026	July 1, 2026
August, 2026	July 21, 2026	July 29, 2026
September, 2026	August 18, 2026	August 26, 2026
October, 2026	September 22, 2026	September 30, 2026
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