

NOVA SCOTIA

NS Budget, Powering the Economy Act Passed

Continued from page 1

"Offshore wind is a game-changer for Nova Scotia," said Premier Houston. "This legislation makes sure Nova Scotians reap the full benefits - good jobs, new revenue and cleaner energy."

The passage of this act is the latest in a string of positive developments for Nova Scotia's energy sector, including:

- Signing an agreement with the federal government to streamline the process when both federal and provincial environmental approvals are needed for major infrastructure and resource projects; (<https://news.novascotia.ca/en/2026/03/27/streamlined-approval-process-positions-nova-scotia-energy-leader>);
- Hydro-Québec's request for information to assess options for the supply and transmission of electricity generated by offshore

wind farms located off the coast of Nova Scotia (<https://news.novascotia.ca/en/2026/03/25/premiers-statement-hydro-quebecs-offshore-wind-move>)

- The signing of a memorandum of understanding with Massachusetts to work toward Nova Scotia supplying the state with clean energy from offshore wind (<https://news.novascotia.ca/en/2026/02/04/nova-scotia-massachusetts-sign-agreement-offshore-wind-energy>)
- Engaging Dalhousie University to oversee the \$30-million Subsurface Energy Research and Development Investment Program; this project will help understand the potential for natural gas production in Nova Scotia and community readiness (<https://news.novascotia.ca/en/2025/12/22/new-program-develop-local-fuel-lower-power-rates>)

OP-ED

NOTE: The following is an op-ed from Barbara Adams, Minister of Seniors and Long-Term Care.

After months of negotiations between long-term care employers and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) to reach renewed collective agreements, we are now in a situation that I sincerely hoped would be avoided. CUPE represented employees at more than 20 long-term care homes will be on strike starting this week.

Over the last few weeks, it has become clear there is a lot of misinformation circulating. I know this can cause stress for everyone involved. I want to make sure everyone has clear, accurate information and to reassure Nova Scotians that all residents of these homes will continue to receive the essential care they need.

To residents, families and staff of those facilities, I know how worried you must be. I want to reassure you that we have been in touch with all impacted long-term care homes. For us, and them, the care and safety of residents remains the number one priority. Although the labour action will cause challenges, every impacted facility must have essential service agreements in place to ensure that essential daily care continues, including meals, dressing, personal care, and medication administration.

To employees in this sector, I know first-hand how dedicated you are to providing exceptional care and support to residents. I am deeply grateful for your skill, compassion, and hard work.

I am hearing that some employees impacted by the strike have not been told what is in the offer even though CUPE leadership rejected the deal without giving members an opportunity to vote. That's deeply concerning.

What Nova Scotians Should Know About CUPE Strike Action in Long-Term Care

On the table is a strong, competitive package. The offer matches the deal already accepted by employees in 27 unionized long-term care homes and in home care and hospitals. In fact, CUPE accepted this same deal for home care and hospital employees it represents.

Over the four-year agreement, the offer includes: wage increases of at least 12 per cent, with some classifications receiving up to 24 per cent to ensure competitiveness across the province; retroactive pay dating back to 2023; 70 per cent in-

crease in shift and weekend premiums, effective upon ratification and funding to enroll in a defined benefit pension plan for facilities that do not currently have one in place.

The majority of the current agreements expired in 2023 and CUPE represented employees in long-term care are stuck at 2023 wages until renewed agreements are reached. The renewed agreements would expire in 2027, at which point the next round of bargaining could begin.

As Minister of Seniors and

Long-Term Care, I strongly encourage CUPE leadership to reconsider and sincerely hope they allow members to vote. It is not too late.

Over the coming days and weeks, we will do all we can to keep providing accurate, timely information, including at <https://novascotia.ca/cupe-updates/>

Most importantly, I will continue to work with our partners to ensure essential care for all residents.

Barbara Adams is Minister of Seniors and Long-Term Care.

\$8.5M for 40 AI Projects in Atlantic Canada

AI integration across sectors is fueling economic diversification, digital transformation, and global competitiveness has spurred ACOA to announce \$8.5-Million funding to help 40 AI businesses grow.

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming how businesses operate, and Atlantic Canadians are beginning to see real benefits from that shift. We have an opportunity to be part of this transformation, and to contribute to that economic growth and productivity. Across Atlantic Canada, many small businesses interested in using AI need support securing the time, money, or expertise to get started. That is why the Government of Canada is helping companies across sectors and at every stage, harness artificial intelligence to build the economy of the future.

On April 3rd, the Honourable Evan Solomon, Canada's first Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation, visited Volta in Halifax, Nova Scotia, announcing a federal investment for 40 projects that will help businesses and organizations adopt AI across Atlantic Canada. Through ACOA, the Government of Canada is investing over \$8.5 million, helping: small businesses reach more customers

using AI-powered sales tools; rural industries improve production through smart automation; companies scale up AI systems for export and certification; and workers gain digital skills through training and support.

These investments are creating new opportunities, increasing productivity, and helping Atlantic Canadian communities grow. As the economic and productivity benefits of new technologies continue to unfold, the Government of Canada is committed to supporting the na-

tion's AI ecosystem with targeted investments to help small and medium-sized enterprises incorporate AI into their business operations.

The announcement was made on behalf of the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

(The list of 40 companies receiving \$8.5-Million funding from ACOA is on page 12).

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NOTICE OF DESIGNATION OF A PROVINCIAL PARK PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 367 OF THE REVISED STATUTES OF NOVA SCOTIA, 1989 THE PROVINCIAL PARKS ACT

The Minister of Natural Resources hereby gives Notice that His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia in Council, by Order in Council 2025-309 made November 4, 2025, pursuant to Chapter 367 of the Revised Statutes of Nova Scotia, 1989, the *Provincial Parks Act*, has designated an area of land situate at Blue Sea Corner, Malagash Point, Cumberland County, owned by His Majesty the King in right of the Province of Nova Scotia, to be a Provincial Park to be known by the name Blue Sea Beach Provincial Park.

DATED at Halifax, Halifax County, Nova Scotia, January 22, 2026.

This notice is published pursuant to clause 9(a) of the *Provincial Parks Act*.

Description of Blue Sea Beach Provincial Park:

ALL those certain lots, pieces or parcels of land situate, lying and being at Blue Sea Corner, Malagash Point, Cumberland County, Nova Scotia, and shown outlined in bold line and shaded dark grey on a Compiled Plan (Field Plot P-089/22) (Schedule "A") and being described in Schedule "B".

The above-described provincial park contains an area of 177.0 hectares (437.4 acres), more or less. Said plan was attached to and may be obtained from a NOTICE OF DESIGNATION OF A PROVINCIAL PARK registered on February 5, 2026 at the Cumberland County Land Registration Office as Document Nos. 127098821 and 127098888 respectively.



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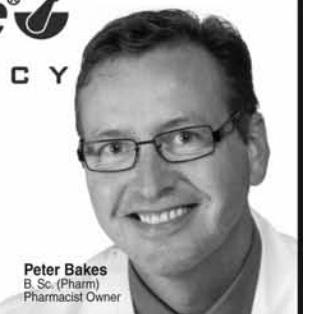
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