

# The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

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## Nova Scotia Simplifies Zero% Program for Student Loan Borrowers

Nova Scotia graduates no longer need to reapply to keep their provincial student loans interest-free. The Province has streamlined its zero per cent interest program, removing the annual application requirement for all new graduates and ensuring continuous support for eligible borrowers during their repayment period.

The program supports graduates who remain in Nova Scotia after completing their studies. Before this change, graduates had to reapply each year to confirm they were still eligible.

The change reduces paperwork and helps prevent interruptions in support, making it easier for borrowers to stay focused on paying down their loans. People currently repaying provincial loans were recently notified of the change by email.

This improvement also supports the Province's broader efforts to reduce red tape and improve service delivery, making it easier for Nova Scotians to access programs and supports.

The Province eliminated interest on Nova Scotia student loans in 2014, saving graduates more than \$2 million annually.

## Elections Nova Scotia Continues Strategic Direction Strategy

Elections Nova Scotia (ENS) has released a refreshed strategic plan that will guide the organization over the next four years (2026-2030). ENS has also developed an outreach strategy action plan in collaboration with our IDEAs partners (inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility) to guide our outreach work for the 43rd Provincial General Election when it is called.

Following the Provincial General Election in 2024, ENS reviewed its objectives and sought input to help improve electoral services for Nova Scotians. Consultation to shape ENS's strategic direction included feedback from staff and returning officers as well as input from stakeholders, such as registered political parties, IDEAs partners (Inclusion Diversity, Equity and Accessibility), and the public.

ENS remains committed to continued relationship building with partners and stakeholders, ensuring electoral systems are secure, and streamlining processes to deliver positive experiences for all Nova Scotian voters. Equally important is ENS's commitment to fostering inclusive and supportive work environments where staff, election workers, and volunteers can thrive and succeed.

Developing a strategic plan helps create certainty in the uncertain environment in which ENS must plan for to deliver elections. The strategic plan is posted on the ENS website at [electionsnovascotia.ca](http://electionsnovascotia.ca).

ENS is also committed to building relationships and partnerships with stakeholders to enhance the electoral process for all Nova Scotians through inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. ENS's approach to outreach is long-term, requiring ongoing collaboration, support, and dedication. Together with our IDEAs partners, ENS will engage in the work outlined in the outreach strategy action plan to create change for underserved voters across Nova Scotia.

The outreach strategy action plan is also posted on the ENS website at [electionsnovascotia.ca](http://electionsnovascotia.ca).

ENS is a non-partisan and independent agency responsible for conducting provincial elections.

## Premier Travels to Calgary to Promote Energy Opportunities

Premier Tim Houston was in Calgary from April 7-10 for meetings with major energy companies as well as the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers and the Canadian Association of Energy Contractors. The meetings, with companies that work in oil, natural gas and renewable energy, will build on an ongoing effort to increase interest in Nova Scotia's natural resources. The Premier will also co-host a roundtable and dinner with Alberta Premier Danielle Smith.

In addition to onshore natural gas opportunities that can be found in rock formations underground in Nova Scotia, the province has estimates of up to 148 trillion cubic feet of underdeveloped offshore natural gas that could provide reliable supply, economic value and energy security for North America for decades. Nova Scotia also has some of the strongest and most consistent offshore winds in the world, with the potential to power about a quarter of Canada's electricity needs.

The one project, one review agreement that was recently announced with the federal government also removes barriers to economic growth and energy security by supporting a clear, streamlined regulatory environment.

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# Bearcats Make Yearly Donation To Bible Hill Kinsmen Charities



Prior to the game on April 4th, Captain Liam Welsh and Assistants, Matthew Bolduc, Wyatt Countway and Jake Todd helped the Bible Hill Kinsmen during their annual Club presentations to non-profit organizations as part of the Power Play Program. When a Bearcat scores a power play goal, \$100 goes to the charities supported by the Bible Hill Kinsmen. Representatives from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Colchester Food Network, CEC Scholarship Fund and Multiple Sclerosis Foundation received cheques from Bearcat players.

**Sobeys GARDEN CENTRE • OPENS Friday, May 1**  
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## 2026 Events



- **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPERS**  
Sunday May 31st 10:45 a.m.
- **REMEMBRANCE DAY**  
Wednesday November 11th 10:45 a.m.

## Colchester/Truro Volunteer Nominations



Scan Here  
Visit [Colchester.ca/volunteers](http://Colchester.ca/volunteers)

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

Do you know someone who goes above and beyond in the volunteer world? Now's your chance to recognize their dedication and hard work!

Colchester County and the Town of Truro have partnered to recognize outstanding volunteers and organizations in the community! If you know someone who dedicates their time and effort to making a difference, now is the time to nominate them.

Let's celebrate our community volunteers!

Deadline for submissions: May 1, 2026



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