

The
Shoreline Tid-Bits
Journal

Minimum Wage Increases to \$16.50

Starting October 1, Nova Scotia's minimum wage increases to \$16.50 per hour from \$15.70. This is the second increase this year, bringing the total increase for 2025 to \$1.30. "Affordability continues to be a priority for our government," said Nolan Young, Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration. "Increasing the minimum wage twice this year will help to put more money in the pockets of thousands of workers and help them manage the rising cost of living." Minimum wage regulations require that the minimum wage be updated every year on April 1 based on the consumer price index for the previous year, plus an extra one per cent. The additional increase on October 1 this year responds to concerns about the rising cost of living. Increasing the minimum wage is one way the Province is helping Nova Scotians keep more money in their pockets. It has also: Delivered more than \$500 million in tax-saving measures, saving the average Nova Scotian family more than \$1,000; Quadrupled investment in rent supplements, helping 12,000 Nova Scotians last year; Expanded the school lunch program to 334 schools, providing nutritious, affordable lunches to more than 104,000 students each day and reduced child-care fees by an average of 50 per cent.

Next Steps for Wind West discussed

Premier Tim Houston met with Tim Hodgson, federal Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, in Ottawa on October 1, and Prime Minister Mark Carney on October 2, to discuss energy security and the economic benefits of the Wind West project. "Wind West is a project of national significance and has the potential to make Nova Scotia a clean energy superpower and bring jobs and investment to our communities," said Premier Houston. "It also can help Canada become a global powerhouse and the strongest economy in the G7." The Government of Canada has identified Wind West as a nation-building strategy and has committed to working with the Province to develop the project further and help make it a reality. A strategic plan released by the Province last month outlines how the federal government can make the clean energy project a reality - including reviving the proposed Clean Electricity Investment Tax Credits and confirming access to the Canada Infrastructure Bank's low-interest financing. On September 26, the Province introduced the Powering the Offshore Act, which updates legislation related to offshore, tidal energy and the Nova Scotia-New Brunswick intertie. It will help pave the way for clean energy projects, jobs and investments. Mission legates from the Province include Premier Houston and Nicole LaFosse Parker, Chief of Staff and General Counsel, Premier's Office.

Legislation Commits Province to Strengthen Fire Services

The Province will address long-standing issues in fire services in Nova Scotia, including governance, consistency in fire response, firefighter health and well-being, access to safe training and certification. The Fire Safety and Services Act, introduced October 1, commits the government to create a legislative framework to respond to the wide range of matters identified in this year's value-for-money audit of the Nova Scotia Firefighters School and in a new report from the Fire Service Association of Nova Scotia. Consultation and public feedback on those reports will also help build the framework. "When a 911 call comes in, we want our fire services to be consistent across the province," said John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs. "The future legislative framework will be informed by the feedback received through our consultations, and that will help to ensure a more cohesive fire service from one end of the province to the other." Nova Scotia is one of the few Canadian jurisdictions that does not have a clear mandate for fire services in legislation. The Province will introduce its legislation in 2026.

Farmland values rose 6.0% in first half of 2025

Canadian cultivated farmland values rose by an average of 6.0 per cent in the first half of 2025, according to the mid-year farmland values review by Farm Credit Canada (FCC). This marks a modest acceleration compared to the first half of 2024, which saw a 5.5 per cent increase. Over the 12 months from July 2024 to June 2025, there was a 10.4 per cent increase, representing a slight increase compared to the previous 12-month period (January to December 2024) with a 9.3 per cent increase.

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We've all felt it — the doctor shortages, the emergency room closures, the anxiety of wondering if help will be there when you need it. I sat with healthcare leaders working on delivery models that might actually work for communities like ours. No magic bullets, but real momentum toward solutions that recognize rural doesn't mean we deserve second-tier care.

Meeting with the National Police Federation and the Postal Workers Union reinforced something I've been saying since day one: the people who keep our communities running deserve our respect and our support. Not platitudes — actual support. These conversations inform how I show up in Ottawa, when I push back, and what bills & motions I push forward.

And speaking of motions — the veteran support measure I'm putting forward — it's designed to pilot tangible, on-the-ground support right here in Cumberland County, with the goal of setting an

example for others to follow. Because if we can make it work here, we can make it work anywhere!

A Moment That Matters
But here's where October got really interesting. I had the genuine honour of joining Minister of Defence David McGuinty, Chief of Defence Staff General Jennie Carignan, and the Coast Guard Commissioner Mario Pelletier to officially welcome the Canadian Coast Guard to the Defence Team. This is recognition that the Coast Guard — the people who risk their lives in our waters, who respond when things go sideways, who protect our coasts and communities — deserve to be recognized as the defence force they've always been. For our region, with our coastline and maritime communities, this means something real.

Standing there, I felt that same click I experienced with the cattle ranchers. We're at our best when we recognize what's actually working, support the people doing the work, and build systems that

match the scale of people's commitment.

The Power of Showing Up
I also spent time this month with the Truro Pride Society, a small but mighty team doing essential work to ensure everyone in our communities feels seen and supported. Every single person participating in the conversation reminded me why retail politics — the actual showing up, listening, and following through — really matters.

Looking Forward
October was a lot. A lot of meetings. A lot of travel. A lot of long days. But here's what I know: when rural communities lead — when farmers innovate, when small towns refuse to fade, when

people show up for each other — we don't just survive, we set the new standard.

I see it as my job to connect with folks here on the ground — and then keep a bright spotlight shining on Nova Scotia. You're already doing so much of the good work. My job is to make sure Ottawa pays attention, removes barriers, and delivers on the potential you're already building.

There's real momentum right now. Not everything is fixed — not even close. But the trajectory is right, and I'm honoured to be part of pushing it forward.

Alana

Alana Hirtle is the Member of Parliament for Cumberland-Colchester and serves on the Veterans Affairs Committee and the Joint Committee for the Scrutiny of Regulations. Alana has two offices for face-to-face services:

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go back to the days when governments balanced budgets by cutting healthcare. Instead, we will continue to strategically invest in our future.

The Cape Breton Medical Campus has begun training its first class of 30 future physicians, which will help future-proof our healthcare system from crum-

bling into another deep healthcare crisis like the one we inherited. When we made a promise to fix healthcare, we meant it. While there is still work to be done, I'm incredibly proud of the progress.

Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia can be reached at:
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News from our Provincial Capital - Tom Taggart
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one would be required to hire some unidentified "professionally" designated person to determine the future of that land was not something I could get comfortable with.

Municipalities are ultimately responsible for land use and building requirements. They are local Government with a closer understanding of conditions on the ground. In 2025 the government released new support tools as well as guidelines for Municipalities around planning and protection.

Unfortunately I was not out and about as much as I like to be over the last few months. Many will know I had a knee replacement that impacted my ability and quite honestly my desire to travel about. Hopefully that is mostly behind me, and I look forward to being more mobile this fall.

Again, please take time on November 11 to show remembrance and support for our veterans.

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News from our Provincial Council - Dave Ritcey
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as bronchiolitis and pneumonia, particularly in infants and older adults.

Adults age 75 years and older can book their vaccine online at <http://novascotia.ca/vaccination> or by calling 1-833-797-7772.

More Access to Recovery Support

Nova Scotians now have even more access to recovery support services. A celebration was held in Truro to mark the opening of new centres, bringing the total number of recovery support centres across the province to 12. These centres provide walk-in care, in-person assessments, group programs, harm reduction support, and recovery planning. Help is closer to you.

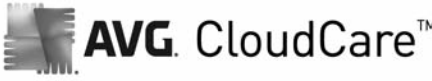
Appointments can be made by calling the provincial mental health

and additions intake service at 1-855-922-1122 or booking at

<https://prebooking.nshealth.ca/>
Dave Ritcey is MLA, Truro-Millbrook-Bible Hill-Salmon River.

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