News from our Provincial Capital - Dave Ritcey

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ment's plan to modernize the electricity system. Over the past five years, the Province has created the Independent Energy System Operator, advanced the Clean Power Plan and restructured the Nova Scotia Energy Board.

The MOST program is an amazing program supporting young people in Nova Scotia.

Young people are choosing to build their futures in Nova Scotia, and the More Opportunity for Skilled Trades and Occupations (MOST) Tax Refund is helping make that possible.

Since 2022, nearly 18,000 applications have been approved, returning more than $63 million to eligible young workers in skilled trades, healthcare, film and video occupations. Whether it's helping someone save for a first home, start a career in the trades, or practice nursing here in Nova Scotia, MOST is supporting the next generation of workers our province needs.

Learn more about MOST and available tax rebates: https://novascotia.ca/.../more-opportunity-for-skilled...

Community Safety, Well-Being Initiative Getting Started in Nova Scotia Municipalities

The Province is launching an initiative that takes a co-ordinated, community-oriented approach to public safety – one that will help prevent harm and crime by addressing the root causes.

Working with partners across Nova Scotia, the Province is developing a Community Safety and Well-Being Initiative that will guide collective efforts to build safer, healthier and more resilient communities. The Province is also developing tools and resources to help municipalities build their own community safety and well-being plans, tailored to local needs and priorities. Three municipalities will pilot these plans as part of the initiative.

Community safety and well-being means people are safe and feel safe, experience a sense of belonging, and have equitable access to supports such as education, healthcare, food, housing, income, policing and social and cultural opportunities.

This initiative responds to a recommendation from the Mass Casualty Commission to move beyond reactive, siloed responses to crime and harm and toward co-ordinated efforts focused on prevention.

Training New Psychologists

Nova Scotia is training the next generation of psychologists right here at home.

The first students have begun the new Doctor of Psychology program at Mount Saint Vincent University, The Province is investing $12.2 million in the academic program and an affiliated training clinic, where students will gain supervised, hands-on experience while providing services to Nova Scotians

Regional Emergency Response Projects

Working together, municipalities and first responder organizations can now apply for funding to strengthen emergency preparedness and response projects that benefit more than one community. The regional funding stream of the Emergency Services Provider Fund supports shared projects led by a volunteer first responder organization, a municipality or a group of municipalities. Projects must benefit more than one organization and help improve preparedness, response, recovery, or risk reduction across a region.

The fund may cover up to 90 per cent of eligible project costs, to a maximum of $200,000. Eligible projects may include shared equipment and vehicles, training facilities and exercises, emergency planning, public education, FireSmart improvements and mental health resiliency programs. Applications will be accepted until October 31 through a new online application portal.

Emergency Services Provider Fund Regional funding stream guidelines: **https://www.novascotia.ca/.../emergency-services-provider**...

Online application portal: **https://www.forms.novascotia.ca/.../61d5b5e0-2d7c-4e40**...

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MARIGOLD: 2026 ECMA Innovator of the Year Nominee

Submitted by Meg Randell

The Marigold Cultural Centre's story begins nearly a century ago. From 1935-1968, local journalist W. B. Foster wrote newspaper columns detailing the fictional EES Marigold, flagship of the Brown Star Navigation Company. Once a month, Daily News subscribers in the Truro area were treated to the misadventures of the EES Marigold as it sailed up and down the Salmon River. Its stories became legendary, and for 33 years, loyal readers awaited Foster's anecdotes about the Marigold and its passengers, many of whom were well-known citizens of the day. Launched in the midst of the Depression, The Marigold Sails Again by Edwin Sherdlou, Foster's pen name, soon became a part of everyday life in Truro, featuring national, provincial, and local characters, making W. B. Foster's stories seem almost real. Adding a touch of whimsy to an otherwise sombre decade, the Marigold sailed through the political ups and downs of the Thirties, through the Second World War and the post-war Baby Boom before its final voyage in the 1960s. The EES Marigold is a Truro original that captured the imagination of readers across the country.

For a number of years, the town of Truro lacked an arts and cultural centre to host various live performances and arts education programs. When the former Centennial Theatre, located in the heart of Truro, became available, a plan formed to purchase and develop the facility into that long-awaited venue. That plan resulted in raising the money for both the purchase and the renovation of the facility through a Community Economic Development Investment Fund cooperative venture. When it came time to name this new cultural centre, choosing "Marigold" after Foster's stories was a no-brainer.

The Marigold is home to the MMFI Art Gallery, the Colchester County Sports Hall of Fame, a workshop space for arts education programs, a concessions area, and a 208 soft-seat theatre. With strong community and organizational support, the Marigold provides musical, theatrical, live comedy, and dance performances for the community and surrounding areas. Recently, the Marigold returned to its roots as a movie theatre, offering monthly film screenings in partnership with the Toronto International Film Festival alongside its regular programming. The centre also continues to support the community through bursary programs for artists and students wishing to pursue the arts.

Today, the Marigold continues to grow as an arts and cultural centre. In 2019, the Marigold won the Community Presenter of the Year award at the Nova Scotia Music Awards. In 2024, the Marigold took on the tongue-in-cheek title of the "Live Music Capital of Nova Scotia". In 2025, the Marigold was nominated for Venue of the Year at the East Coast Music Awards and for the Live Sector Award at the NSMA. In 2026, the Marigold was nominated for Innovator of the Year at the ECMA. With nearly 20 years of performances and more to come, the Marigold continues to sail.

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