



Speaking to a packed room Premier Houston delivered a positive and upbeat message on the province's future due to several factors including labour force, energy, mining, shipbuilding and West Wind at a Chamber of Commerce hosted "State of the Province" address on August 4th. (Premier's Office)

A Mindset for Nova Scotia to become Canada's Energy Leader

(On August 4th Premier Tim Houston addressed the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce with a State of the Province address. Unfortunately, Shoreline Journal publisher, Maurice Rees, was unable to attend for medical reasons. We obtained a copy of Premier Houston's speaking notes. Upon review, we decided the Premier's message was so comprehensive and positive about the province's future we decided it should be available to the general public, not just business leaders and Chamber members. We encourage you to read the entire talk.)

Thank you to the Chamber for inviting me. And thank you to all of you for being here today.

It is always a pleasure to be here.

This region represents some of the very best of Nova Scotia. You build things. You grow things. You catch things. You process things. You export things.



Premier Tim Houston speaking to attendees at the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce hosted Houston's "State of the Province" address on August 4th. (Premier's Office)

And you understand something that has always been true about this Province: Nothing worthwhile gets built by standing still.

I want to shout out a big thank you to my Caucus colleagues: Tom Taggart; Dave Ritcey and Scott Armstrong. Your region is well-represented by these incredible MLAs. They are relentless advocates.

They are never shy about reminding me what your community needs. And because of that, this region continues to move forward.

Together, we have invested in a new pharmacy walk-in clinic. We are spending on municipal infrastructure. We have created over 73 new childcare spaces - with 84 more on the way. We invested in the Don Henderson Memorial Sportsplex.

Those investments do not happen by accident. They happen when the Province listens and works with the community to deliver. And ultimately, they happen because Nova Scotians gave us a clear job to do.

When you elected our government in 2021, you were not looking for speeches. You were looking for results. You wanted healthcare fixed. You wanted government to get things done.

That is exactly what we have been doing.

Is the job finished? No. Not even close. But is the plan working? Absolutely.

Today, there are more doctors practicing in Nova Scotia than ever before. There are also more nurses. More training seats. More clinics. More healthcare infrastructure under construction than at any point in decades.

Wait times for hip and knee replacements in Nova Scotia are now the shortest on record according to Canadian Institute for Health Information, bucking a trend seen throughout the rest of Canada where provincial waits are largely longer than they were a decade ago.

There is still a lot of work ahead of us, but the plan is working. We are moving in the right direction.

If I stand back for a minute, I have to tell you that for a Premier of a Province facing a deficit of more than one billion dollars this year, on top of a billion dollars last year and another billion forecast next

year, I remain remarkably optimistic about our future.

For starters, over the last five years, Nova Scotians proved something important. We proved that when we come together around a clear goal, we can solve problems that once felt impossible.

What we have done together on the healthcare file is proof of something bigger... It's proof that Nova Scotians can still do big things. Can still lead the country.

And now we are focused on an equally daunting task... Rebuilding our economy. We have to and we will, because you can't maintain world class services with a weak economy. Now more than ever we need to build an economy that protects your paycheck.

Families are under pressure. They feel it every time they buy groceries. Every time they pay the mortgage. Every time they open a power bill.

People are working harder than ever. They have a right to expect to get ahead, not fall behind. At the same time, the world feels very different than it did only a few years ago. The Trump administration has thrown global trade into chaos... And I refuse to let Nova Scotians pay the price for Washington's politics.

That is why we have taken action to defend our industries and send a clear message that Nova Scotia will not be bullied. We cannot control what happens in Washington. We cannot control global conflicts. But we can control how prepared Nova Scotia is.

That's my job. In fact, at the end of the day, my job is clear: Protect your paycheck from forces beyond your control. Build an economy strong enough to reduce the pressure families are feeling. That's why Nova Scotia has entered a new chapter and this one is about building one of Canada's strongest economies. And that is what I want to talk about today.

Yes, we are going to talk about natural gas. But this is not really a speech about natural gas. And, of course, we are going to talk about offshore wind. But this isn't really a speech about offshore wind.

And we'll talk about mining. But this is not really a speech about mining either.

This is a speech about receiving a shocking diagnosis, coming to grips with it, identifying the treatment and necessary prescriptions... and then finding the courage to move forward with it. Let me unpack that.

Imagine going to your doctor for a routine checkup. After reviewing your tests, your doctor sits down and says, "I'd like to talk about your health."

We call that Budget 2026.

Nobody looks forward to that conversation. But here's something important. A diagnosis doesn't create the condition. It reveals it. It tells you honestly where you are and what you are facing. Only then can the doctor write the prescription.

Nova Scotia is at a similar moment. Our diagnosis is clear. Demand for healthcare continues to grow. Infrastructure is aging. The cost of delivering public services keeps rising. And we are running significant deficits.

Sure, I wish the tax dollars went far enough to fund every ask. And there are some that say, "just run a billion-dollar deficit." If only it was

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2026 Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Thank You to all Volunteers



I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge a wonderful group of people who dedicated their time and effort into making the 2026 Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition such a success.

The exhibition has been a staple in our community for many years, and the thought of this event no longer continuing would leave many disappointed. This amazing group of volunteers persevered and made it happen. I would like to sincerely thank Shelly DeViller, Dana Boutilier, Steve Logan, Jen Thompson, Rebecca Dennis, Andrea Ashton, Gillian Fraser, Don Conrod, Nick Sharpe, Sidney Patton, Andrew Peterson, Angela Masters, Angie Brown-Fulton, & Arnold Hagon.

And a special thank-you to Colchester County 4-H Club. After so much controversy over the last 6 months, it was wonderful to see the hard work and success they were able to accomplished. It was with great pride that I was asked to judge some of the events and have the chance to meet some of our community's great volunteers.

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Hours - 8:30am - 3:30pm

Use the lower level entrance - Look for the Entrance Sign in the Parking Lot