

In the News

Atlantic Region



LMI
LABOUR MARKET
INFORMATION

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A monthly summary of labour market news for the Atlantic Region

Highlights

(News published February 1st – 29th 2024)

- Elanco Animal Health, a P.E.I. fish health company with 140 employees, has been sold to Merck Animal Health for \$1.3B.
- Cognizant's Halifax location will receive payroll rebates in an effort to create as many as 1,000 new jobs over 6 years at the global tech company.
- World Energy GH2 has secured a \$128M federal development loan for a proposed wind-to-hydrogen project on Newfoundland's west coast.
- Kyndryl Canada, a global technology firm, is planning to hire more than 40 remote and on-site positions throughout New Brunswick.
- Champlain Seafoods (Montreal) have announced that their Riverside Lobster International processing plant in Meteghan will shut down permanently.
- Calgary-based Lynx Air has ceased operations as of Feb. 26, after filing for creditor protection.

Industry Updates

The Atlantic provinces signed a new Atlantic Canada Agreement on Tourism, which will provide \$30M in funding over the next four and a half years. The agreement aims to expand tourism year-round. Tourism in the region employs more than 111,000 workers.

Saint John-based Coast Tire & Auto Service and Andy's Tire Group, which is headquartered in Halifax, have announced a merger. The new group will have roughly 500 staff, 46 stores, three distribution centres, and three retreading plants across Atlantic Canada.

Newfoundland and Labrador

World Energy GH2 has secured a \$128M federal development loan for a proposed wind-to-hydrogen project on Newfoundland's west coast. The project is forecasted to create 2,200 direct construction jobs, 400 operations jobs, and 4,200 indirect jobs.

After Braya Renewable Fuels spent hundreds of millions to convert the Come By Chance refinery, the former oil refinery in Placentia Bay is now producing renewable diesel. The site employs 200 full-time employees, but plans to grow as production increases.

The N.L. Government is accepting expressions of interest from property developers interested in building new residential rental units as it launches a \$50M loan program. Expressions of interest are being accepted until February 21.

The new owners of the St. Lawrence fluorspar mine, private equity group - African Minerals Exploration & Development Funds, plan to invest \$100M over the next 3 years to restart and expand the mine, which closed in February 2022. There are currently 20 employees which will eventually peak at 200.

Prince Edward Island

The president of UPEI says that if the foreign student cap resulted in a 10% drop in international students, that could leave the university short by \$3M. Over \$100M comes into the province as a result of international students.

Elanco Animal Health, a P.E.I. fish health company with 140 employees, has been sold to Merck Animal Health for \$1.3B. The CEO of P.E.I. BioAlliance states that the sale is part of the evolution of the Island's biotech sector and will create opportunities.

Charlottetown will receive \$10M through the federal Housing Accelerator Fund, with the plan to fast-track 300 housing units over the





next three years. The city has agreed to make changes to its building permits and zoning, such as taller apartment buildings.

Perry's Construction Ltd. was awarded the construction tender for the \$720K expansion at École Pierre-Chiasson in Tignish. The foundation was poured in December 2023 and the project is on schedule to be completed by September 2024.

Nova Scotia

The N.S. Government has announced its \$1.6B 2024-25 Capital Plan. Highlights include \$301.7M for the Halifax Infirmity expansion and CBRM healthcare redevelopment projects, \$146.1M for hospital construction/renewal projects, \$208.5M to build/renovate schools, and \$47.1M in building/repairing public housing.

St. John's-based Ocean Choice International (OCI) has sold its offshore scallop quota to three Nova Scotia companies. The value of the quota is estimated to be \$200M and was purchased by Comeau's Sea Foods, LaHave Seafoods and Mersey Seafoods.

A new state-of-the-art nurse training facility will open at Acadia University (Wolfville) for the 2026-27 academic year that will allow Acadia to obtain accreditation for a standalone nursing program that will target graduating 63 nurses every year by 2027. The N.S. Government is contributing \$13.9M towards the project.

New Brunswick

The federal government will spend over \$500M on a new Atlantic Science Centre on University Avenue in Moncton, which could bring hundreds of jobs and scientific research projects. The Moncton region was the fastest growing metro population in Canada in 2022.

Vitalité Health Network says the severe staffing shortage in 2022 is what led to signing \$158M in private agency contracts to use travel nurses. Although Vitalité has a number of new hires, it will take until the winter of 2026 to phase out travel nurses.

Mount Allison University will undertake a \$85M project to renovate and update its 54-year old campus library over a five-year period. Construction of an interim library will begin this summer, which will later be converted into an athletic complex.

Job Creation

Newfoundland and Labrador

Mamu Tshishkutamashutau Innu Education, Labrador's Innu educational authority, has partnered with McGill University to offer a new 2-year teaching certificate for Sheshatshiu and Mushua Innu - the first of its kind in Labrador. It is expected to result in 20 new teachers to help with the increasing student population.

Prince Edward Island

Health P.E.I. has hired its first two midwives who are now working at Charlottetown's QE Hospital. The midwives can offer pre-conception

services and postpartum services for up to eight weeks afterwards. The province plans to add two more midwives.

Nova Scotia

The N.S. Government has announced a new payroll rebate agreement to support the growth of global technology services company Cognizant, which could see as many as 1,000 new jobs within 6 years. Cognizant currently employs 1,000 people in the province where the Information and Communications Technology sector contributed \$2.06B to the GDP in 2022.

The N.S. Government is partnering with Safety Services Nova Scotia to hire 15 new examiners to work out of Access Nova Scotia centres in the Halifax area to help reduce driving test wait times at a cost of about \$2.3M.

New Brunswick

Kyndryl Canada, a global technology firm, is planning to hire more than 40 remote and on-site positions throughout New Brunswick. The company provides hybrid cloud solutions, along with security, resiliency, data and artificial intelligence services.

With the significant growth in immigration, New Brunswick schools have been challenged to hire more staff and find space to deal with the flow of new students. Schools have had to add more educational support teachers and budget more money for tutoring.





Layoffs

Calgary-based Lynx Air has ceased operations as of Feb. 26, after filing for creditor protection. The low-cost airline began in 2022 and had about 500 employees, but faced rising operating costs, increased airport charges and a difficult regulatory environment.

Nova Scotia

Champlain Seafoods (Montreal) have announced that their Riverside Lobster International processing plant in Meteghan will shut down permanently citing insufficient lobster landings to sustain current processing capacity. Last spring the company employed about 80 local employees and 70 temporary foreign workers.

New Brunswick

The sorting centre Atelier des Copains located in Haut-Madawaska, having failed to reach an agreement with Circular Material, will lose its share of residential recycling for the entire North West. About 10 jobs will be lost.

Economic Reports

Atlantic Economic Council

A new report by the Atlantic Economic Council comparing hydro electric, natural gas, and wind turbines, suggests that offshore wind development is the most beneficial to local economies as the majority of the work has to be done locally and is thus vital for economic growth in the clean energy sector.

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