

# In the News

Atlantic Region

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LABOUR MARKET  
INFORMATION

A monthly summary of labour market news for the Atlantic Region

APRIL 2026

## Highlights

(News published April 1st – 30th 2026)

- The Government of Canada is investing \$28M to rebuild the Windsor Street Exchange in Halifax.
- The N.B. government reports that Belledune is being considered as a potential site to build a large explosives factory that could generate 500 direct jobs.
- The Government of Canada has announced up to \$8B in long-term defence investments at 5 Wing Goose Bay for areas such as airfield improvement, operational facilities and infrastructure.
- Over 100 tradespeople are involved in the final stages of construction at the \$40M Cleantech Innovation Centre, in Georgetown.
- Agropur will close its dairy plant near Sussex and its ingredients plant in Truro by the end of 2028, resulting in about 90 jobs lost altogether.
- The NL government is spending \$9M to hire 46 new police officers over the next two years.

## Industry Updates

Rogers Communications Inc. is offering voluntary departure packages to about 10,000 employees, in an effort to cut capital spending by 30% and boost cash flow. The company employs about 25,000 people, but its unsure how many workers will take the offer.

Rising commodity prices, such as fuel and fertilizer, are increasing operating costs for businesses. Firms in construction, farming, and landscaping are being forced to absorb expenses, increasing the risk for jobs losses and resulting in higher prices.

The federal government will fund \$81.7M over five years for its Atlantic Wild Salmon Strategy, with the Atlantic Salmon Federation adding \$25M to that total. The money will go toward stabilizing and restoring habitats, with many species being endangered.

### Newfoundland and Labrador

A junior mining company says a major clean nickel discovery in central Newfoundland could be worth up to \$2 billion, but advancing the project is stalled by a lack of early-stage financing.

Bombardier has signed a multi-year, multimillion-dollar agreement with a St. John's-based AI company to

integrate artificial intelligence into its aircraft design and manufacturing processes. The partnership will use AI-powered engineering software to speed product development, improve design quality, and apply accumulated engineering knowledge across development cycles.

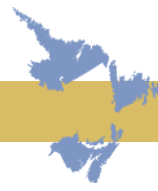
The Government of Canada has announced up to \$8B in long-term defence investments at 5 Wing Goose Bay for areas such as airfield improvement, operational facilities and infrastructure. An \$187M energy performance contract has also been awarded to MCW Custom Energy Solutions Ltd. that will start the 5-year project in summer 2026 to modernize the base's central heating plant.

### Prince Edward Island

Statistics Canada says P.E.I.'s potato production fell 15.9% in 2025, the largest provincial drop in the country. Farmers were hit by drought conditions last year and are faced with higher costs for fuel and fertilizer, due to oil supply disruptions in the middle east.

Over 100 tradespeople are involved in the final stages of construction at the \$40M Cleantech Innovation Centre, in Georgetown. The centre will be an educational and business hub for clean technology, where businesses can utilize the space to develop their ideas.





MRSB, a P.E.I. consulting firm, has been awarded a \$181,484 contract to develop an oyster industry adaptation strategy to assist the Island's \$54M industry. Wild fishers, growers and processors have all been impacted by MSX and dermo but have different needs.

### Nova Scotia

Wine producers across Nova Scotia are preparing to sell wine directly to Ontario consumers. Beginning in May, producers will have access to a larger market, supporting sales growth, and sustaining jobs in Nova Scotia's wine industry.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees issued notice to strike at 22 long-term care homes across Nova Scotia. Over 2,200 workers plan to strike, which affects care services and labour supply at nursing facilities provincewide.

The Construction Association of Nova Scotia said a building boom is being constrained by a chronic labour shortage. As a result, project timelines and growth are limited as employers struggle to hire skilled trades workers across the province.

The Government of Canada is investing \$28M to rebuild the Windsor Street Exchange in Halifax. The project will support construction employment, boost the economy, and improve the wastewater collection system in the region.

### New Brunswick

A new report from the Vitalité Health Network states that 545 permanent staff were hired in the first quarter of 2026. The network has a turnover rate of 6.4% and hired 17 physicians, 39 licensed practical nurses, 96 RNs, and one nurse practitioner.

Agropur will close its dairy plant near Sussex and its ingredients plant in Truro by the end of 2028, resulting in about 90 jobs lost altogether. The Miramichi plant is increasing its capacity by 50% and adding 15 jobs and the Bedford facility will add 30 jobs.

The N.B. government reports that Belledune is being considered as a potential site to build a large explosives factory that could generate 500 direct jobs. Eurenco, Europe's top producer of propellants and explosives, has partnered with Canadian firm Nalagx to build a Canadian plant by 2029.

The N.B. government will invest \$423M in the Department of Justice and Public Safety in 2026-27 to strengthen and ensure sustainability. The RCMP will receive an extra \$7M, SIRT will receive \$1.1M, and Technical Inspection Services will get \$1M to hire more staff.

## Job Creation

### Newfoundland and Labrador

The NL government is spending \$9M to hire 46 new police officers over the next two years. They are also investing \$2.4M to create new court staff positions and over \$1M will be used to create 14 new public prosecution

positions, including six new Crown attorneys and seven additional court judges.

The NL government is budgeting \$38M for the use of travel nurses this year but hopes to reduce reliance through a new provincial travel nurse team. The new team will be funded through a \$6.5M investment and will consist of 25 nurses.

NL Housing is hiring 23 new maintenance workers across the province to help repair roughly 350 vacant public housing units currently needing work. The provincial government has allocated \$12.7M over two years for repairs, with new staff expected to speed up renovations and reduce housing waitlists.

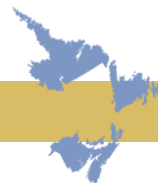
### Prince Edward Island

The Prince County Hospital in Summerside is building a new Innovation and Learning Centre, which is expected to help recruit and retain healthcare workers. Once built, the 48,000 ft<sup>2</sup> space will include learning facilities, a daycare, and temporary housing.

### Nova Scotia

The Government of Nova Scotia approved the Eigg Mountain wind energy project in Antigonish County. Developer Eigg Mountain Wind Inc. will build a twenty-two turbine wind farm, creating about 200 to 250 construction jobs and twelve long-term jobs.





The Government of Nova Scotia approved Atlantic Mining Nova Scotia to process stockpiled ore at the Touquoy gold mine in Halifax County. The work is expected to create about 200 jobs and generate \$151M in revenue for the province.

### New Brunswick

J.D. Irving will shut down its Saint John paper mill for 13 days to complete maintenance and upgrades. There will be 1,800 contractors and tradespeople on site for the planned shutdown, which is being done to improve safety and reliability at the mill.

The Miramichi Fire Department is hiring 8 full-time and 2 part-time firefighters in order to bolster emergency services with the closure of the Centennial Bridge. The move will allow quicker response times and improve effectiveness across the city.

Fredericton is moving forward with a new fire station at 750 Prospect Street, which will be the fifth for the city. It is hoped that the station could be completed by 2028, and would require hiring about 20 to 23 firefighters to staff the station.

## Layoffs

Rogers Communications Inc. is offering voluntary departure packages to about 10,000 employees, in an effort to cut capital spending by 30% and boost cash flow. The company employs about 25,000 people, but its unsure how many workers will take the offer.

### Newfoundland and Labrador

Two Freshii restaurant locations in St. John's have temporarily closed due to bankruptcy. Notices posted at both sites list financial difficulties as the reason for the closure. The broader Canadian franchise continues to operate nationally.

### Nova Scotia

Cape Breton University plans to reduce its workforce by 50 positions. The losses come just a year after the university said it would have to cut 112 jobs due to financial challenges stemming from lower international student enrolments.

Budget cuts of \$529,000 to Sherbrooke Village are forcing layoffs to the Sherbrooke Restoration Commission. The funding reduction represents 22.4% of the annual budget for the Commission, which employs about 70 employees each year.

## Economic Reports

### Canadian Medical Association

Family doctors on P.E.I. say that the time spent on paperwork is on the rise. A recent report from the Canadian Medical Association found that Canadian doctors spent about 9 hours a week doing admin tasks and half of that time is dealing with red tape.

### Public Policy Forum

A report prepared for the Public Policy Forum projects that N.B. will have 135,700 job vacancies between 2025 and 2035, and a lack of young people to replace retirees. Industries most in demand are health care (30K), construction (16K), and retail (13K).

**Prepared by:** Labour Market and Socio-Economic Analysis, Service Canada - Atlantic Region

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