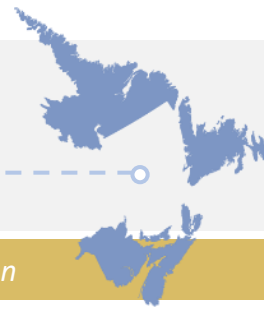


In the News

Atlantic Region



MAY 2026

A monthly summary of labour market news for the Atlantic Region

Highlights

(News published May 1st – 30th 2026)

- Maritime Launch Services said Spaceport N.S is projected to create about 1,600 jobs during construction. Once completed, the facility is expected to have about 1,000 ongoing roles and add \$300M annually to Canada's GDP.
- P.E.I has unveiled its new Oyster Industry Relief Program, designed to help the sector adapt and recover from challenges caused by rising costs associated with MSX and dermo.
- N.B.'s skilled trades sector supports the federal \$6B plan to train up to 100,000 new workers.
- Memorial University is reducing its academic and administrative budgets by 4% and 6%, respectively.
- DFO is closing its salmon biodiversity facilities in N.B and N.S because the program is costly and has shown little success in restoring the endangered inner Bay of Fundy salmon.
- The P.E.I. government has announced that it will cut support staff funding by 25% (\$1.3M) in early childhood learning centres.

Industry Updates

The Government of Canada said it will invest \$13.8M over three years to retrain up to 1,557 workers hit by tariffs. The support will focus on helping unemployed workers gain skills for in-demand jobs and employed workers who need to upgrade their skills.

Negotiations with PAL Airlines are still underway to help restore a regional air service among the Maritime provinces. Last August the governments of P.E.I., N.S., and N.B. announced a \$9M investment to ensure daily flights connecting five Maritime cities.

Newfoundland and Labrador

The Exploits Valley Renewable Energy Corporation has submitted its Botwood and Area Green Energy Project for Environmental Assessment. The corporation is proposing to construct and operate a wind energy project consisting of three wind farms in central NL and a production facility in Botwood. The aim is to export the ammonia to Canadian, U.S. and European markets.

A Labrador-based fishing company is seeking a 5% share of the northern cod fishery as stocks rebound and traditional crab and shrimp fisheries decline. Federal authorities will decide on allocations. Industry groups representing current groundfish

harvesters oppose new entrants, saying increased quotas should first restore historical allocations.

Iron Ore Company of Canada, which has roughly 1,600 workers in Labrador City, is forecasting a significant drop in production in 2026 due to higher operating costs, asset conditions and challenges accessing ore. The company is implementing cost-saving measures, including freezing non-critical hiring.

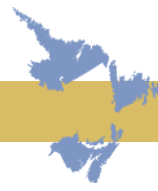
Memorial University is reducing social work program seats by 20%, from 100 to 80, starting in the 2025–2026 academic year, citing sustainability and limited capacity to support required field placements. Students and faculty representatives warn the reduction could worsen an existing provincial social worker shortage.

Prince Edward Island

The P.E.I. government says it will meet with producers to discuss possible financial support for a Netflix production set to be filmed in Toronto and on P.E.I. It is estimated that the 10-episode series could generate \$20-\$30M in direct economic activity.

Prince Edward Island has unveiled its new Oyster Industry Relief Program, designed to help the sector adapt and recover from challenges caused by rising costs associated with MSX and dermo. One measure will provide





wage assistance and the other will provide interest relief.

The federal government is investing \$14.3M into green shipping in P.E.I., including a project that allows vessels to connect directly into P.E.I.'s electrical grid while docked. The funding will help the cruise industry to reach its goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.

P.E.I.'s landfill could last about 22 more years thanks to a \$180-million expansion of the Charlottetown waste-to-energy plant, set to open in 2028. The upgraded facility will burn up to 90% of the Island's burnable waste.

Nova Scotia

Eskasoni First Nation and Brela Homes announced a joint venture in Cape Breton to accelerate housing construction. The agreement will train and employ Eskasoni band members in trades and expand modular home production in the region.

The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency will deliver \$2.15M to support Hailmar Fisheries, Atlantic Coast Live Lobster, Fishermen's Premium Atlantic Lobster and Xsealent Seafood. The funds will modernize lobster processing and support jobs in Nova Scotia.

The Canada–Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator awarded Inceptio Oil and Gas Limited two offshore petroleum exploration licences in Nova Scotia waters, backed by \$210M in work bids, pending approvals,

signalling potential job creation in energy services.

New Brunswick

The federal and N.B. governments will partner to support tariff-impacted workers. Over three years, \$13.8M will be go into the Canada–N.B. Workforce Tariff Response program to support workers in softwood lumber, mining, construction, transportation, and other sectors.

A massive solar farm is being proposed near Tantramar that would have more than 340,000 solar panels. The Cookville Solar Project could supply up to 150 MW of clean energy. Once approved it would take 18 – 24 months to complete construction.

N.B.'s skilled trades sector supports the federal \$6B plan to train up to 100,000 new workers, but warns the province lacks the space, instructors, and capacity to take on more students, with colleges already facing long waitlists and employers struggling with growing labour shortages.

Moltex Energy Canada is selling its reactor designs, patents, and other assets to B.C.-based Nuclea Energy for \$11.5M after running out of money, despite having received far more in public funding. The sale casts doubt on Moltex's plan to build a reactor in N.B. as officials now warn against investing in unproven nuclear technology.

Job Creation

Nova Scotia

Maritime Launch Services said Spaceport Nova Scotia is projected to create about 1,600 jobs during construction. Once completed, the facility is expected to have about 1,000 ongoing roles and add \$300 million annually to Canada's GDP.

The Government of Nova Scotia has approved the Sugar Maple Wind Energy Project, in Pictou County. Work on the 16-turbine wind farm is expected to begin in 2027, creating an estimated 150 jobs during construction and seven permanent positions once operational.

The Government of Nova Scotia said it will provide \$2M towards a new three-storey daycare in Beaver Bank. The move will add up to 194 daycare spaces, will require at least 40 early childhood educators, and is expected to open by December 2026.

The Government of Nova Scotia approved a gypsum mine for CertainTeed Canada Inc. to operate in Carrolls Corner. The firm plans for the open pit operation to launch in 2027, producing 1.5 million tonnes annually and supporting more than 60 full-time jobs.

New Brunswick

The chair of the Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick says that additional manufacturing capacity is needed in the region. Agropur has said it will spend about \$20M to modernize and



expand its Miramichi plant, increasing its capacity by 50% and adding 15 jobs.

A \$4M year-round ball hockey facility opened in an industrial park in Saint John's east side. The new Knapper Center features indoor-outdoor playing surfaces, viewing spaces, and a bar. Other areas in Atlantic Canada are looking to build similar facilities.

Layoffs

Newfoundland and Labrador

Memorial University is reducing its academic and administrative budgets by 4% and 6% respectively, alongside a voluntary retirement program for eligible employees aged 60 and above. The institution cites declining enrolment projections, rising costs and funding constraints as the reasons for the budget reductions.

Prince Edward Island

The P.E.I. government has announced that it will cut support staff funding by 25% (\$1.3M) in early childhood learning centres. There are concerns about the childrens' education, as well as the risk of extra stress and staff burnout due to reduced support.

Nova Scotia

Budget cuts by Nova Scotia's regional centres for education will affect 150 jobs. Most of the jobs will shift from administrative and specialist roles to classroom positions, while 47 will be eliminated through attrition.

The Nova Scotia Community College will cut 91 management and support positions, including 45 layoffs. The job losses are due to a \$15M budget shortfall as the college saw reduced international tuition revenues and a lower provincial operating grant.

New Brunswick

DFO is closing its salmon biodiversity facilities in N.B and N.S because the program is costly and has shown little success in restoring the endangered inner Bay of Fundy salmon. Union representatives warn the closures could push the species closer to extinction and will leave most of the 13 technicians without jobs.

Economic Reports

Canadian Federation of Independent Business

A survey by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business shows that larger businesses are more likely to use multiple recruitment methods compared to smaller firms. Retail, hospitality and the arts are more likely to accept unsolicited applications and walk-ins.

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

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