

# In the News

Atlantic Region



LMI  
LABOUR MARKET  
INFORMATION

SEPTEMBER 2026

*A monthly summary of labour market news for the Atlantic Region*

## Highlights

*(News published September 1st – 30th 2026)*

- The Government of Canada is investing nearly \$130 million in infrastructure and heritage asset improvements across Parks Canada sites in Cape Breton/Unama'ki and Canso.
- The Belledune generating station will transition from coal to wood pellets in response to federal regulations requiring the phase-out of coal-fired electricity generation by 2030. The changeover to pellets is expected to create 700 to 1,000 jobs in the community.
- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador approved a billion-dollar energy-sharing agreement with Hydro-Quebec. The agreement includes proposals for over \$50B of hydro and wind energy development along the Churchill River.
- The Town of Cornwall has approved the sale of two hectares of land for the development of the town's first long-term care home for seniors.

## Industry Updates

### Newfoundland and Labrador

The Stephenville International Airport has reopened with a new owner and fuel provider. The airport closed in June 2025 due to utility payment issues and was subsequently sold to a subsidiary of BTG Capital.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced an \$8.25M investment to expand the Humberwood Treatment Centre in Corner Brook. The project will add four community-based detox beds and six additional inpatient treatment beds, improving access to addiction treatment and recovery services on the province's west coast.

The government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced a federal investment of over \$7M into water and wastewater treatment upgrades in Mount Pearl through the Build Communities Strong Fund. The investment is expected to increase sewage and water capacities in order to meet population growth needs.

### Prince Edward Island

On September 26, PEI will suspend its provincial fuel taxes on gasoline and diesel for four months. This change will reduce gasoline prices by 8.47 cents per litre and diesel prices by 14.15 cents per litre. The tax is

scheduled to be reinstated in April 2027.

The Prince Edward Island government reversed a planned 25% cut to funding to pedagogical support workers in childcare centres across the island. This will extend current funding until March 2027 and intends to help maintain staffing, strengthen workforce capacity, and ensure job stability.

PEI has introduced a \$12.5M support package to help businesses manage the impact of new U.S. tariffs on Canadian exports. The province estimates about \$10M in exports could be directly affected and is also supporting workforce retraining and skills development for workers and employers facing tariff-related disruptions.

### Nova Scotia

The Nova Scotia Government celebrated the inauguration of three 50-megawatt energy storage systems in Bridgewater, Waverly, and White Rock. The federal government invested \$109M into the facilities and grid improvements, while 13 Mi'kmaw communities are participating as equity partners. The project intends to contribute to Nova Scotia's green energy goals.

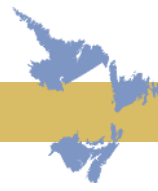
Nova Scotia has extended its Capital Investment Tax Credit for five



Employment and  
Social Development Canada

Emploi et  
Développement social Canada

Canada



additional years, allowing eligible companies to apply until December 31, 2035. The credit covers 25% of qualifying investments exceeding \$15 million for projects such as manufacturing plants, fish-processing facilities and lumber mills. Since 2020, the program has supported \$472.5 million in capital investments across the province.

Premier Tim Houston said Nova Scotia is working directly with businesses most affected by the ongoing Canada-U.S. trade dispute to assess impacts on supply chains, employees and customers. The province has a \$50 million contingency fund available for tariff-related support but has not yet deployed it. Officials are evaluating sector-specific risks before determining further assistance measures.

### New Brunswick

The governments of Canada and New Brunswick are investing over \$16M in wastewater infrastructure to enable new housing construction in Oromocto. This investment will support the Government of Canada's goal to address the ongoing housing crisis and position the Town of Oromocto to accommodate the substantial population growth expected over the coming decade.

The federal and provincial governments have finalized an agreement to build and renew infrastructure throughout the province. Over the next 10 years, NB will receive more than \$305M to support infrastructure projects, with an emphasis on those relating to

housing and higher education. An additional \$155M will go towards healthcare infrastructure over the next 3 years.

A funding agreement with the Canada Games Host Society has been finalized for the 2029 Canada Summer Games, which are to be held in southern NB. The \$11.85 million investment will support the operation of the Games, including staffing, medical services, logistics, and event delivery. The 2029 Games are expected to boost economic activity in the province by \$200M.

## Job Creation

### Newfoundland and Labrador

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced that employment benefits currently attached to the Gull Island project will be extended to the broader Churchill Falls, Labrador transmission and wind developments. The agreement guarantees that 85% of construction person-hours will remain in Newfoundland and Labrador, with priority given to qualified Labrador Innu, Labradorians and Newfoundlanders. The Gull Island project alone is expected to employ up to 5,000 workers at peak construction.

### Nova Scotia

The federal government is investing more than \$14.1 million in 27 Nova Scotia businesses and organizations through the Regional Tariff Response Initiative. The funding will help firms address impacts from U.S. tariffs by improving productivity, strengthening

supply chains, expanding market reach, and supporting business growth. Ace Machining in Dartmouth received more than \$400,000 for advanced manufacturing equipment.

Accelerate Nova Scotia, the province's new investment and economic growth agency, is beginning operations with plans to hire 3 to 5 staff members and focus on attracting private-sector investment. The agency is expected to work closely with Nova Scotia's defence, energy and innovation sectors to support economic development and business growth.

### New Brunswick

Atlantic Potash Millstream Corp. has begun drilling at its proposed potash mine near Sussex, advancing a project that could support up to 300 jobs. The deposit contains an estimated 52M tonnes of potash and is expected to produce 2M tonnes annually, with full-scale operations targeted within five years.

Construction on a biogas plant in Penobsquis is expected to begin in October. The plant will process 135K tonnes of manure and aquaculture fish waste to produce 200K gigajoules of natural gas, all of which is expected to remain in province. The plant will also produce fertilizer as a byproduct, which will be distributed back to farmers.

## Layoffs

### Newfoundland and Labrador

Memorial University of Newfoundland has eliminated 107 positions in an effort to address ongoing financial



pressures and improve long-term sustainability. The reduction includes 51 retirements, 37 vacant positions, and 19 layoffs across leadership, management, faculty and unionized staff. The university estimates the changes will generate \$12.7 million in annual savings.

### Nova Scotia

A Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) contact centre in Halifax made its first batch of layoffs last week as a part of business restructuring. CIBC employs about 3,000 people across Canada, including 400 to 500 in Halifax. The exact number of layoffs is unknown and the reduction in positions is expected to be permanent.

### New Brunswick

The Nackawic pulp mill will be ceasing operations at the end of October and is expecting to lay off approximately 350 employees. The owners of the mill, AV Group, attributed the closure to financial and economic issues. Government officials, including NB Premier Susan Holt, have pledged aid to those affected.

## Economic Reports

The Province of Nova Scotia has introduced amendments to the Labour Standards Code that will reduce the overtime threshold from 48 to 44 hours per week, expand overtime eligibility, protect

workers' tips and gratuities, and improve recovery of unpaid wages. Most changes will take effect on April 1, 2027.

The Atlantic Economic Panel released a blueprint to strengthen Atlantic Canada's economy through greater regional cooperation, increased investment, and higher productivity. Recommendations include integrating electricity grids, expanding resource development, scaling AI adoption, and establishing a \$1B prosperity fund to support business growth, attract investment, and create jobs throughout the region.

Newfoundland and Labrador has received federal approval for 1,000 additional Provincial Nominee Program (NLPNP) spaces in 2026, increasing the NLPNP allocation to 2,379 nominations. The province says the expansion will help address workforce and demographic needs, particularly in rural communities and sectors such as healthcare, education and social services.

Starting in March of 2027, Health P.E.I. will be reducing its usage of travel healthcare workers. This means that travel staff will no longer be hired to do the work of licensed practical nurses, resident-care workers, and patient-care workers. This decision is expected to reduce costs and increase morale among healthcare workers.

**Prepared by:** Business Intelligence and Labour Market and Analysis, Service Canada - Atlantic Region

**For further information,** please contact us at: [ATL-LMI-IMT-GD@servicecanada.gc.ca](mailto:ATL-LMI-IMT-GD@servicecanada.gc.ca)

© His Majesty the King in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Employment and Social Development Canada, 2026

