In the News

Atlantic Region

LMI LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION

A monthly summary of labour market news for the Atlantic Region

OCTOBER 2026

Highlights

(News published October 1st – 31st 2026)

- The Federal government is investing up to $254M to support the Saint John Trade Corridor project. The project aims to improve port operations and support job creation and economic growth in the region.
- The federal, provincial, and municipal governments of Newfoundland announced a $23.6M investment to upgrade drinking and wastewater infrastructure across the province. The investment will help support 435 existing households as well as allow for the building of 1390 new homes.
- The Federal government is investing more than $3.3M to support Indigenous-led organizations and businesses across Nova Scotia.
- The province of Prince Edward Island and the federal government are renewing a $31.6M investment in fisheries and aquaculture. The fisheries and aquaculture industry employs more than 5,000 people during its peak season.
- The federal government is investing $2B over eight years to retrofit one million homes across Canada.

Industry Updates

Newfoundland and Labrador

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 federal and provincial governments have announced a combined $3.9M investment in the Inuit community of Nain. The investment will upgrade the community's wastewater management infrastructure and help strengthen climate resilience in the area. Funds will go towards replacing sanitary sewer mains and utility holes, installing inflow protectors, and completing surface grading work.

The Newfoundland and Labrador government is seeking to staff 45 new long-term care beds at the Western Memorial Regional Hospital. Renovations to the hospital are currently underway and the province has set aside $21M to staff them. Fifteen beds will open in the spring and the remaining thirty will be open by next fall.

Prince Edward Island

The federal government is investing $7.3M in a new holding basin near the Wood Islands ferry terminal. The basin will hold additional sediment filtered during dredging to help maintain safe access for ferries. Construction will begin in November and finish in the spring.

Rutgers University has signed a licensing agreement with Atlantic Aqua Farms to bring its disease-resistant oysters to Canadian shellfish fisheries. The agreement gives the company the rights to distribute disease-resistant brood stock in an effort to combat major losses caused by disease.

The federal government will be funding more than $250K in the construction of a new active transportation trail in Alberton. The construction will include more than 600 metres of trail alongside new curbs and gutters to ensure effective drainage and safe trekking.

Nova Scotia

EverWind Fuels has announced a $10B AI data centre and wind farm in Cape Breton. The data centre, which would be leased to the US-based Anthropic, is scheduled to come online in 2027 with an expected expansion in 2028. The project is expected to create 215 permanent jobs and an additional 2000 construction jobs.

The Federal government is investing more than $3.3M to support Indigenous-led organizations and businesses across Nova Scotia. The investment will support business financing and advisory services, research, tourism development, workforce initiatives, and innovation across fisheries, defence procurements, clean energy, and other sectors.

Glace Bay will receive a $500K federal grant for the development of the New Dawn Youth and Family Centre. The centre will improve access to workforce training and help Nova Scotians build entrepreneurship, digital literacy, and youth leadership skills.

New Brunswick

The municipal, provincial, and federal governments are investing more than $1.5 million in infrastructure improvements to support housing development in Shippagan. The funding will expand water and wastewater services and enable the construction of two new streets. These upgrades will support the construction of roughly 69 new homes in the area, creating opportunities for local workers and future homeowners.

New Brunswick will receive a $219M loan from the Canada Infrastructure Bank to help modernize the Mactaquac dam to extend its operational life from 2030 to 2068. The loan will go towards upgrades as well as technical studies, regulatory reviews, and First Nations engagement and planning.

In preparation for the 2029 Canada Summer Games, the federal and provincial governments are investing $18.6M for the renovation of the Canada Games Aquatic Centre in Saint John. Renovations will include replacing the centre's electrical system, lighting systems, HVAC equipment, and overall maintenance.

Two infrastructure projects in Beaurivage and Grand Bouctouche received $7.1M in federal funding. Beaurivage will receive upgrades to water mains, wastewater processing, and road and walkway restoration to support the construction of 150 new housing units. Grand Bouctouche will receive road resurfacing and sidewalk restoration.

Job Creation

Newfoundland and Labrador

The Newfoundland and Labrador government is seeking to staff 45 new long-term care beds at the Western Memorial Regional Hospital. Renovations to the hospital are currently underway and the province has set aside $21M to staff them. Fifteen beds will open in the spring and the remaining thirty will be open by next fall.

A new urgent care clinic in Mount Pearl has been unable to open due to staffing issues. A similar problem has been impacting the Urgent Care Centre East care centre in St. John's; staffing shortages have led to shutdowns and service reductions. The NL Health Services is actively recruiting in an effort to stabilize staffing.

Nova Scotia

The federal government is providing $250K to GeoSpectrum Technologies Incorporated in funding to support the expansion and modernization of its Dartmouth facility. The funds will go towards upgrading the company's manufacturing, engineering, and testing space and are expected to create 40 full-time jobs.

Nova Scotia recruited 278 new physicians last year and is aiming to recruit even more this year. The province currently has 75 physician specialist vacancies and will continue to recruit more in an effort to increase access to both general and specialized care across Nova Scotia.

The Federal government announced $900K in funding for the expansion of MetOcean Telematics' Thornhill Drive facility. The upgrades to the facility will help consolidate workers into one location, reduce annual costs by approximately $600K, and create 10 jobs.

New Brunswick

The government of New Brunswick announced funding for mobile health workers at the Fredericton Downtown Community Health Centre who work with the city's unhoused population. The funding will go towards the addition of two registered nurses, a social worker, and an administrative support worker.

Layoffs

Newfoundland and Labrador

Parks Canada has notified 142 of its 281 employees in Newfoundland and Labrador of potential workforce adjustments. The agency is looking to remove around 500 full-time positions across the country to reduce operating costs. Layoff decisions are expected to begin next month and continue through the winter.

Prince Edward Island

Parks Canada has sent out workplace adjustment letters to 53 of its 98 employees across Prince Edward Island. In an effort to reduce operating costs, the agency is looking to remove around 500 full-time positions across the country. Layoffs are expected to be permanent reductions in positions and will be announced next month, continuing through winter.

New Brunswick

The municipality of Hautes-Terres is temporarily laying off three municipal employees due to financial challenges. Following three consecutive budget deficits, the municipality has also decided to temporarily freeze infrastructure and capital project spending in an attempt to reduce costs.

Economic Reports

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