

# Media Scan

**Wednesday January 13, 2021**

[Canada-U.S. land border closure extended to Feb. 21](#)

The COVID-19 travel restrictions in place at the Canada-U.S. land border are being extended for another month, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced on Tuesday. Trudeau confirmed that the current border restrictions will now remain in effect until Feb. 21, 2021. He said this "important decision" was taken to keep citizens on both sides of the border safe as COVID-19 cases continue to climb in Canada and the United States.

[Travellers coming to Nova Scotia still must quarantine even if fully vaccinated](#)

Nova Scotia's top doctor says people coming to the province outside of P.E.I. and Newfoundland and Labrador will still need to quarantine for 14-days even if they're fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Dr. Robert Strang made the comments at Tuesday's COVID-19 briefing along side Premier Stephen McNeil. Health Canada has approved both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, and the efficacy rates for both are roughly 95 per cent against symptomatic illness.

[Air Canada cuts all service in Labrador, St. John's to Toronto route axed](#)

Air Canada is slashing all service to Labrador and cutting two more routes out of Newfoundland, the company said Tuesday. Service between Gander and Halifax, Goose Bay and Halifax, and St. John's and Toronto ends Jan. 23. A spokesperson told CBC News in a statement that the airline had experienced "stifled demand" due to COVID-19, ongoing travel restrictions and quarantine requirements. As a result, the statement said, the company is "suspending until further notice all passenger flights to these destinations."

[Government won't forgive CERB repayments over net-gross problem despite messaging mix-up](#)

The federal government is refusing to waive repayments for ineligible CERB recipients who applied for the emergency benefit despite an internal mix-up at the CRA that led to weeks of misinformation. Employment Minister Carla Qualtrough's office said Tuesday that the government decided in December that forgiveness for those who didn't qualify "wasn't on the table." "We haven't changed our mind on that," the minister's office said in a statement to CTVNews.ca.

[One new COVID case reported Tuesday, 3,831 doses of vaccine administered as of Jan. 9](#)

As of today, Jan. 12, Nova Scotia has 27 active cases of COVID-19. One new case is being reported today. The new case is in Central Zone and is a close contact of a previously reported case. Nova Scotia Health Authority's labs completed 2,408 Nova Scotia tests on Jan. 11. Nova Scotia is in Phase 1 of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout program. As of Jan. 9, 3,831 doses of the vaccine have been administered. One thousand and seventy-six Nova Scotians have received their second dose. Nova Scotia has received 13,450 doses of COVID-19 vaccine so far, with additional shipments scheduled to arrive weekly. The province is reserving half of every vaccine shipment to ensure second doses are available.

[N.S. universities to receive \\$25 million in COVID-19 financial relief from province](#)

Nova Scotia is spending \$25 million to help the province's universities manage the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The province announced on Tuesday that they will provide a combined \$25 million in financial relief to 10 universities across the province. "We've heard from our universities and we know they are facing new challenges as their operations pivot due to COVID-19," said Lena Metlege Diab, Minister of Labour and Advanced Education. "This funding will address some of those challenges and help meet their immediate needs."

[Calls renewed to lower speed limit on Highway 105 outside Baddeck](#)

Victoria County council wants changes made to a busy stretch of highway near Baddeck, N.S., that has long been a source of concern, beginning with a reduced speed limit. The municipality's warden, Bruce Morrison, said fears have been raised over traffic congestion on Highway 105 near a popular rest stop. "It certainly has been an area that's been flagged for misses, and near misses, and minor accidents that have happened over time," he said. "We know that you can't eliminate risks, so we just feel that one way of reducing further accidents is by reducing the speed, and hopefully it will reduce the number of potential accidents that could happen there."

[Inverness may benefit from COVID's silver lining](#)

One of Inverness County's most prominent sons has identified a potential silver lining in the dark cloud of the COVID-19 pandemic that has taken a huge toll on area tourism. In his recently-issued 2020 annual report, Inverness MLA Allan MacMaster suggested that with more and more people working from home it's likely that many Cape Breton natives and others looking for a change of lifestyle will move to the island.

[Shubenacadie Sam to make groundhog day prediction virtually this year](#)

Shubenacadie Sam's big day will be held solely online in 2021. The groundhog will still emerge from his burrow at 8 a.m. on Feb. 2, but Nova Scotians will have to tune in on social media to find out whether or not he sees his shadow because there will be no public events at the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park this year.

[Ontario issues stay-at-home order, immediately declares second state of emergency](#)

The Ontario government has issued a stay-at-home order for the province beginning on Jan. 14 and has immediately declared a second state of emergency for the province. Premier Doug Ford announced on Tuesday at Queen's Park that the new stay-at-home order, which will go into effect at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, will require everyone to remain at home, with the exception for essential purposes, such as going to the grocery store, pharmacy, accessing health-care services, for exercise, or for essential work.

['They won't be able to survive': N.W.T. Chamber of Commerce says tourism threatened by border restrictions](#)

The N.W.T. Chamber of Commerce says there's a risk the entire tourism industry could collapse if border restrictions stay up through 2021. Renée Comeau, executive director of the N.W.T. Chamber of Commerce, told CBC the territory risks losing most, if not all, of its tourism industry if it cannot find a way to let more travellers in. "From what our membership has told us, they won't be able to survive," she said. "If you don't have customers coming in, you can't sustain a business." The comments come as Dr. Kami Kandola, the N.W.T.'s chief public health officer, told MLAs last week that travel restrictions will likely have to stay in place through the summer tourism season.

['Worrying' number of tourists from outside B.C. prompts Whistler doctor to call for travel ban](#)

An emergency room doctor in Whistler is calling on the B.C. government to restrict travel from other provinces after seeing a "worrying" number of patients from Ontario and Quebec over the holidays. Dr. Annie Gareau, an emergency physician at Whistler Health Care Centre, told Radio-Canada she's concerned that an influx of visitors from outside the region could lead to uncontrolled spread of COVID-19, overwhelming the health-care system.

[In B.C., a regenerative tourism model heralds sustainable change in the industry](#)

Perched on a verdant terraced hillside overlooking Okanagan Lake in Kelowna, B.C., is Summerhill Pyramid Winery, an organic, biodynamic vineyard. "The farm should be an ecosystem within itself," says Jeremy Luyten, executive chef for the winery's restaurant, gesturing across the vines. Summerhill practices regenerative agriculture, which relies on waste reduction, composting and companion crops to create healthy soil, and in turn, healthy food.

[Hotels, resorts, and travel agencies can now apply for Manitoba COVID-19 business benefit](#)

Hotels, travel agencies, and janitorial companies will be receiving some extra help from the Manitoba government related to COVID-19 business impacts. The Manitoba government announced on Tuesday that it is extending the application deadline for the Manitoba Bridge Grant to the end of January, and expanded those who are eligible for financial support. With the eligibility criteria, businesses such as hotels, resorts, lodges and outfitters, travel agencies, janitorial services companies, and owners and operators of licensed passenger transportation can now apply for the grant.