

# Media Scan

Thursday April 15, 2021

## [Concern in tourism industry after Atlantic Bubble start date delayed](#)

Tourism is a major moneymaker for Atlantic Canada, and with hopes set on the Atlantic Bubble for an uptick in lost pandemic revenue, the delay in re-instating the bubble is causing some concerns for tourism operators.

## [Applications Open for Tourism Nova Scotia Industry Support Programs](#)

Applications are now open for three Tourism Nova Scotia industry support programs for businesses and organizations. More than \$2 million in funding will provide program participants with a range of opportunities to support their 2021-22 development and marketing efforts. This funding is included in the 2021-22 provincial budget. "We know the tourism industry has been hard hit by COVID-19," said Labi Kousoulis, Minister of Inclusive Economic Growth and Minister responsible for Tourism Nova Scotia. "These programs will help tourism businesses adapt to the COVID-19 travel environment, maximize opportunities with local and regional markets, develop and execute marketing activities, and adopt digital technologies while lessening their financial burden."

## [With Atlantic bubble delayed, P.E.I. tourism industry urges pairing with N.S.](#)

A two-week delay in the opening of the Atlantic bubble was announced Tuesday, and the Tourism Industry Association of P.E.I. wants to know the province's plan should it have to be delayed further. "We were really hoping to see a little boost right out of the gate," executive director Corryn Clemence told Island Morning host Mitch Cormier on Wednesday, after the proposed date was switched late Tuesday from April 19 to at least May 3. "We've heard a lot of optimism throughout the industry, that people are getting that cabin fever and really looking forward to taking that trip across over to the mainland or vice versa."

## [N.S. reports two new COVID-19 cases Wednesday; 18 previous cases identified as variants](#)

Health officials in Nova Scotia are reporting two new cases of COVID-19 on Wednesday. One of the cases is in the province's Central zone and is related to travel outside of Canada. The other case is in the Eastern zone and is related to travel outside Atlantic Canada. Both individuals are self-isolating, as required. Five of the province's previously reported cases are now considered resolved, with the total number of active cases dropping to 42.

## [The secret to how Atlantic Canada weathered the COVID-19 storm? Political will](#)

While vaccines have brought the end of the COVID-19 pandemic into view, most of Canada is still battling a brutal third wave of infections and deaths. Meanwhile, Atlantic Canada's COVID-19 response has been a world-famous success story, often attributed to its coastal geography and relatively low population density, as well as what Dr. Robert Strang, Nova Scotia's chief medical officer, has called the region's "collective ethic" — the willingness of its people to follow directives and make sacrifices for the common good.

## [Nova Scotia plans to allow limited crowds at women's world hockey championship](#)

Nova Scotia's top doctor says plans are in place to stage the women's world hockey championship in the province next month with limited spectators. However, chief medical officer of health Robert Strang adds the province has the ability to cancel the May 6-16 tournament or change plans if the COVID-19 situation becomes a bigger problem in Nova Scotia. Strang says all 10 teams in Halifax and Truro must participate in a 14-day quarantine, which starts as an individual quarantine before expanding to include other team members.

## [Northern Pulp seeking new environmental assessment](#)

Northern Pulp is taking another swing at getting an effluent treatment plant built. The move by Northern Pulp will restart the battle over the mill's future as newly minted Premier Iain Rankin gears up for his first election at the helm of the Liberal government. In documents filed Tuesday with the British Columbia Supreme Court, the company states that it will file a project description by May 13 with the provincial Environment Department, thereby starting a new environmental assessment process. "(Northern Pulp has) made significant progress in satisfying their obligations under the Ministerial Orders, revising designs and plans for the new replacement effluent treatment facility project to include stakeholder concerns expressed by the Environmental Liaison Committee, and initiating discussions with the Province on the environmental approval process," reads an affidavit by mill manager Bruce Chapman.

#### [Islanders share sadness, frustration over Atlantic bubble delay](#)

Sad, frustrated, supportive and fed up — those were just some of the emotions people on social media shared after a delay for the Atlantic bubble that would have allowed freer travel within the region as of Monday. Late Tuesday, the announcement came down from the four Atlantic premiers that the Atlantic bubble reopening would be postponed until at least May 3. They said the decision was based on advice from the region's chief public health offices.

#### [Indoor dining ban extension especially bad for restaurants without patios](#)

On Thursday, the province is expected to announce an extension of the current three week ban on indoor dining in B.C. The industry has been told to expect the ban will remain in place through the May long weekend, which is terrible news for restaurants that don't have outdoor patios like Fable Diner in Vancouver. "We can't have a patio. We tried to apply to have a patio out front, but it is right now just take out only," said the diner's co-owner Ron Macgillivray.

#### [Alberta government, Stampede optimistic outdoor events will go forward this summer](#)

Amidst a backdrop of increased restrictions and cases of COVID-19 variants, the provincial government is optimistic that outdoor festivals and events such as the Calgary Stampede will go ahead this summer. Over 300 members of Alberta's live events industry joined Doug Schweitzer, the minister of jobs, economy and innovation, for a virtual town hall on Tuesday to discuss the outlook for the province's social calendar in the coming months.

#### [Quebec announces yet another change to outdoor masking rules](#)

After a week of confusion, criticism and low levels of adherence, Premier François Legault has, once again, changed the rules for when masks must be worn outside in Quebec's orange and red zones. In a Facebook post Wednesday, Legault said Quebecers no longer have to wear masks when doing sporting activities with people from different households, as long as physical distancing can be maintained. He also stipulated that couples who don't live together no longer have to wear a mask when spending time with each other outside.