

# Media Scan

Friday May 14, 2021

## [Nova Scotia hits milestone with 400,000 vaccines administered](#)

Nova Scotia announced Thursday it has administered 400,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. It means the province has doubled the number of vaccinations in less than a month, after celebrating 200,000 doses on April 16. Since then, the age groups for vaccine eligibility have been lowered five times, making more than 558,000 people eligible to book an appointment. "We have seen a rapid expansion of our COVID-19 vaccination program across the province over a few short weeks. We are now closer than ever to providing everyone who is able to receive the vaccine a first dose by the end of June," Premier Iain Rankin said in a news release.

## [Halifax Transit using bigger buses on busier routes to prevent crowding amid third COVID wave](#)

While photos have been circulating on social media of crowding on Halifax Transit buses, Halifax Regional Municipality says the transit agency continues to see "very low" ridership levels and is using bigger buses on busier routes to "allow more spacing" amid the third wave of COVID-19. "In general, ridership on bus trips remains very low, at approximately 30 per cent of normal ridership levels," Maggie-Jane Spray, an HRM public affairs adviser, said in an email. Spray noted that while ridership remains low, some routes have seen "higher capacity that is closer to 50 per cent capacity."

## [Work continues at new NSCC campus in Sydney](#)

Work continues on the construction of a new Nova Scotia Community College campus in downtown Sydney that is not expected to open until September 2024. The cost for detailed design and development, including site preparation and land acquisition, was about \$18 million. There were some minor traffic delays this week as workers ferried soil from a site on Falmouth Street across the Esplanade to the construction site.

## [Restro Advocate Demands more Government Support](#)

Restaurants Canada is calling for immediate sector-specific support from the federal government to save the hard-hit industry and recover 400,000 foodservice jobs lost countrywide during pandemic. Luc Erjavec, Atlantic VP of Restaurants Canada told allNovaScotia restaurants are the key to reviving Canada's economy, accounting for two-thirds of the jobs still missing, but government help is needed to bring back 9,600 foodservice jobs lost in Nova Scotia alone.

## [P.E.I. premier muses about June Atlantic bubble at Charlottetown chamber AGM](#)

P.E.I. Premier Dennis King says he's hopeful that the Atlantic bubble can resume sometime in early June as Nova Scotia appears to be turning a corner with its recent COVID-19 outbreak. King made the remarks during a question-and-answer session at the Greater Charlottetown Chamber of Commerce's 134th annual general meeting on Wednesday at the P.E.I. Convention Centre. In a year mostly dominated by the negative financial impact of the pandemic, the chamber had some revenue losses on the operations side, but still ended 2020 with a \$42,374 surplus.

## ['It needed a whole lot of work': Cape Breton park, accessible fishing site gets revamped](#)

Recently, Gerard (Bat) Boudreau was at the New Waterford Fish and Wildlife Park in River Ryan to go fishing when it struck him that the place looked the worse for wear. The park, which has a wheelchair-accessible ramp, has been looking run down lately. Boudreau said parts of the deck would have been unsafe, they were so run down. As of Thursday afternoon, however, it has a new life. The Port Morien Wildlife Association (PMWA) received a grant of \$6,200 through the Nova Scotia Sportfish Habitat Fund, where anglers purchase their licenses, to repair the deck and ramp and clean up the site.

## [110 new COVID-19 cases in Nova Scotia, including one that shuts Halifax Shipyard](#)

Irving Shipbuilding has shut its Halifax Shipyard after a positive COVID-19 test from someone connected to its second Arctic and offshore patrol ship. Irving said production operations at the shipyard are paused until at least Monday's day shift. The company said it will provide more details later Thursday. The company is building six Arctic and offshore patrol ships for the Royal Canadian Navy. One has already been delivered. A second, the future HMCS Margaret Brooke, is undergoing final testing. The company plans to launch a third in 2022, and work on a fourth has begun. Meanwhile, Nova Scotia reported 110 new cases of COVID-19 Thursday and 155 recoveries. There are 83 new cases in central zone, 12 in eastern zone, nine in western zone and six in northern zone.

#### [Ontario to provide grants for tourism and travel businesses in need of support](#)

The Ontario Government is rolling out a new program that will provide one-time payments of up to \$20,000 to eligible travel and tourism businesses through the new \$100-million Ontario Tourism and Travel Small Business Support Grant. On May 13, Lisa MacLeod, the Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, announced the new support program, which will aim to support businesses that did not receive the Ontario Small Business Support Grant (OSBSG), such as travel agents, hotels, motels, resorts, and bed and breakfasts.

#### [Canada unlikely to follow U.S. approach to easing COVID-19 masking rules: doctor](#)

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 no longer need to wear masks outdoors and in most indoor settings, but one of Canada's top public health officials suggests a different approach would be taken here. "We have more of what I'd call a collective or community approach," Dr. Howard Njoo, deputy chief public health officer, told a briefing in Ottawa on Thursday. "So it's not about what an individual should be able to do with one or two doses." He said even as more Canadians get their shots, public health measures such as physical distancing, mask wearing and frequent hand washing remain key.

#### [Greyhound Canada shutting down all bus service permanently](#)

Greyhound Canada is shutting down all of its remaining bus routes in Canada, permanently. The bus company says all of its remaining routes will cease operations as of midnight Thursday. The iconic bus carrier pulled out of Western Canada in 2018. It then put its remaining routes in Ontario and Quebec on pause when COVID-19 hit in 2020, but now it is pulling out of domestic Canadian service permanently. "A full year without revenue has unfortunately made it impossible to continue operations," spokesperson Stuart Kendrick said. "We deeply regret the impact this has on our staff and our customers, as well as the communities we have had the privilege of serving for many years."