

# Media Scan

**Tuesday July 20, 2021**

## [Fully vaccinated tourists will soon be able to visit Canada again](#)

The federal government announced today it plans to let fully vaccinated tourists visit Canada again soon. Ottawa now says that — starting Aug. 9 at 12:01 a.m. ET. — fully vaccinated U.S. citizens and permanent residents living in that country will be able to visit Canada without having to quarantine for two weeks. The government said it then plans to open Canada's borders to fully vaccinated travellers from all other countries on Sept. 7. Officials also announced today that as of Aug. 9, children under 12 — who aren't yet approved to receive a vaccine — will be exempt from the quarantine requirement after entering Canada and can move around with their parents if they follow public health measures. But those children are advised to avoid group settings such as school, camps and daycares — especially indoor ones.

## [Patio Lanterns Festival lights up Halifax's Grand Parade with free shows](#)

A summer of free events on Halifax's Grand Parade begins this week with the Patio Lanterns Festival presenting four performances by top local female talents on the Grand Oasis Stage. The shows are part of a group of more than 60 events taking place over the next 14 weeks, featuring 100 artists, with music, dance and art for fans, families and groups of friends to enjoy outdoors in the heart of the city. Presented by Halifax Civic Events, the concert series starts with 2021 East Coast Music Award winner Zamani, performing her unique style of R&B songwriting with a live band on Thursday at 6 p.m.

## [Nova Scotia Tory leader Houston focuses campaign on fixes to health care](#)

Nova Scotia Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Houston argued Monday he's the politician likeliest to fix shortcomings in the province's health system, in a campaign where he's casting himself as a Red Tory unafraid to spend public dollars. Houston appeared at a news conference with Michael Nickerson, the business manager of the paramedics union, and told reporters it's often quicker to get a pizza delivered in the province than to receive ambulance services.

## [It could be a while before Nova Scotia's next COVID-19 briefing](#)

There are no COVID-19 news briefings planned for this week in Nova Scotia, and it's not clear when one might happen again. In a written statement, Dr. Robert Strang, the province's chief medical officer of health, said the province marked its 150th COVID-19 update last week and suggested the briefings will be put on hold as case numbers remain low. The province is now in its fourth stage of its reopening plan and there are fewer than 10 active cases remaining. "I sincerely want to thank Nova Scotians for tuning in to these briefings over the last year and a half, and for working together to keep each other safe and help our province battle the COVID-19 pandemic," Strang said in the statement.

## [Eclipsed by new development: massive downtown Halifax mural to vanish from public view](#)

A well-known piece of public art in downtown Halifax will soon vanish from public view, eclipsed by a new development, but the artist who painted it says that's simply the nature of the work. The massive, surrealistic mural depicting an octopus and a blue heron battling over a fish, covers most of the exposed side of Freak Lunchbox, a popular retro candy store on Barrington Street. It was painted in the fall of 2015 by Montreal-based artist Jason Botkin, who admits he initially took some heat over the mural, but it was one of the most interesting and significant projects of his career.

## [Halifax sailors can't fathom why quarantine exemption doesn't apply to them](#)

When Halifax's Peter Blunden sailed his boat back to Nova Scotia from the Caribbean Island of Saint Martin Friday, officials told him his double vaccine status cleared him to come ashore and mingle with the population. Blunden later learned that Canada Border Services Agency officers had provided him with bad information: he needed to self-isolate for two weeks because he arrived by sea. Funny thing is people flying into Canada do not have to obey the same COVID quarantine rules. "I was told by (Canada Border Services) when I first arrived that since I was double vaccinated and I was a Canadian coming home I was clear to go home and to carry on," Blunden said Monday.

## [New Cape Breton venue Sacred Heart Downtown to host first ever concert](#)

After a prolonged COVID-19 interlude, the show will go on as Sacred Heart Downtown is set to host its first concert since opening in March. The concert will carry out as a night of traditional fiddle music featuring three-time Juno Award winner Ashley MacIsaac, said Sacred Heart Downtown officials in a release. Owner of Sacred Heart Downtown, Kevin Colford, said there is not a bad seat in the venue as blood, sweat and tears have gone into fine-tuning the way sound travels in the recently restored walls of the former church.

### [Air Canada announces dozens of U.S. routes as border restrictions ease](#)

Air Canada is adding dozens of routes to the United States as part of its summer schedule, with the change coming after the federal government loosened border restrictions Monday. The airline says the 55 routes to 34 destinations will add up to 220 daily Air Canada flights between the two countries. Fully vaccinated U.S. citizens and permanent residents will be able to enter Canada with relaxed testing measures and without mandatory hotel quarantines as of Aug. 9. The additional flights are at airports in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Calgary. The airline says its regular onboard services for things like food will resume on trans-border flights that are longer than two hours.

### [eHealth Sask. developing vaccine certificates](#)

eHealth Saskatchewan is developing vaccine certificates to help people prove their vaccination status where it is necessary. Saskatchewan residents can print off their vaccination records by creating an eHealth account and accessing their immunization information. The provincial Ministry of Health said the provincial and federal governments are working on the vaccination certificates or passports together. It said there was no timeline for implementation. "All provinces are meeting with the federal government on the vaccination information systems currently in use in their respective jurisdictions, and how this information can be used to support a federal vaccine passport," said a ministry spokesperson.

### [People have embraced Ontario's parks during the pandemic, but are they loving them to death?](#)

Chris Lemieux doesn't like crowds and it's why he'll avoid visits to provincial parks in southern Ontario during July and August. He's watched the trend of people flocking to Ontario Parks and Parks Canada sites in recent years, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, as they were looking for fun ways to get out of the house, and health officials were telling them being outdoors is safer. "Nature has substantial health and well-being benefits. So contact with nature within protected areas can provide relaxation, rejuvenation, stress relief, things like that," Lemieux, an associate professor at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ont., said in an interview. He is also the John McMurry Research Chair in Environmental Geography and director of the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas.