

# Media Scan

**Wednesday July 21, 2021**

[U.S. flights to return to Halifax airport on Aug. 9](#)

After a year and a half of low numbers of travellers, officials at Halifax Stanfield International Airport finally got some much needed good news on Monday. The federal government announced it plans to let fully vaccinated tourists visit Canada again soon. As of Aug. 9, 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. Halifax was one of five airports added to the list of Canadian airports that will once again allow international flights carrying passengers to land. Airports in Quebec City, Ottawa, Winnipeg and Edmonton were also on the list. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, international flights had only been landing in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montreal.

[Halifax's airport pleased to welcome back international travellers next month](#)

The Halifax International Airport Authority is very pleased with the federal government's recent announcement, allowing fully vaccinated international travellers to travel to Canada starting next month. On Monday, the Trudeau government said fully vaccinated Americans would be allowed to visit Canada with no quarantine starting Aug. 9, with plans to expand that to all other countries starting Sept. 7. This is welcomed news according to HIAA spokesperson Leah Batstone who said this will help with Nova Scotia's economic recovery. "Halifax Stanfield is Atlantic Canada's hub airport and we are typically a critical piece of infrastructure that's connecting travellers across Canada and to the US and key international markets as well," she said.

[Rankin promises to nix Cobequid tolls, gets cool reception in Amherst](#)

The welcome mat wasn't exactly rolled out for Nova Scotia Liberal Leader Iain Rankin as he arrived Tuesday in Amherst, N.S., for a campaign stop. Rankin was in town to announce plans to remove tolls from the Cobequid Pass for passenger vehicles with Nova Scotia plates by Oct. 1, if his party is re-elected. But a group of about 15 protesters angry over public health restrictions made it challenging for Rankin to announce his plan. The protesters say restrictions put in place because of the COVID-19 pandemic have cut them off from the rest of the province and neighbouring communities in New Brunswick.

[N.S. Election: Leaders focus on highways, economic announcements in Day 5 of campaign](#)

Nova Scotia's NDP will be announcing a plan to support small businesses this morning, while the Liberal leader heads to Antigonish for a highway announcement. NDP leader Gary Burrill is making the announcement in Halifax and will then campaign in several ridings in the capital region. The NDP campaign to date has focused on social issues, including housing shortages in the province and the fees being imposed for calling ambulances.

[Shakespeare By The Sea gets back on-stage this summer](#)

It was a difficult move for Shakespeare By The Sea to cancel their 2020 season and alter the following one, but they're ready to offer safe, exciting events once again. "Due to COVID-19, we couldn't do anything in 2020. We had no idea if we could produce something in 2021, and were having constant Zoom meetings and looking at possibilities," said Elizabeth Murphy, the co-founder and co-artistic director. "The thing holding us back was gathering limits – Even though we're outdoors. We figured we could sit 200 people distanced, but the number of people in different pods was challenging."

[Humani-T Café in north-end Halifax to close in August](#)

Humani-T Café, a bakery, espresso bar and grocery store on Young Street in Halifax, is closing. The business announced the closure on its Facebook page on Tuesday. Humani-T Café has been operating for 11 years and will stay open until Aug. 6, then continue to sell retail items for the rest of the month "until we clear our inventory." "With the first COVID lockdown in March 2020 we started a marathon thinking it was a 100-metre dash," says the Facebook post. "We need a break to recover, and to assess our options going forward."

#### [WestJet drops out of talks with government on pandemic aid](#)

Calgary-based WestJet said today that after months of negotiations, it has officially ended talks with the federal government on a financial aid package to help the airline during the COVID-19 pandemic. The statement from the airline, released this afternoon, comes a day after Canada announced it plans to reopen the border to fully vaccinated U.S. citizens next month and to vaccinated travellers from around the world in September. "Given encouraging vaccination rates across the country, both parties have mutually agreed to shift focus from these negotiations, and away from taxpayer-funded support, to leading the safe restart of the travel and tourism sector," WestJet said in the statement.

#### [Valley tourism being explored yet again as Bonnechere Caves reopen](#)

The Bonnechere Caves, one of the most popular tourist attractions in the Ottawa Valley, reopened Tuesday. Although visitors are technically outside while visiting the caves situated between Douglas and Eganville, the underground site is considered as an indoor attraction, and was restricted from opening before Step 3. The caves held a soft opening over the weekend and now, on day one, tourists are back in full force. "It's been absolutely fantastic. It was much busier than we thought it would be, even on the soft opening. Word of mouth seemed to spread fairly quickly," says David Bell, manager of the Bonnechere Caves. "We've been sending people every five minutes through the cave. People are just so happy when they show up here and we're really happy to see them and to get to talk to our customers again."

#### [Winnipeg makes the list for TIME's greatest places](#)

Winnipeg is receiving some international recognition for its sights, attractions and cultural offerings. The city has been chosen for TIME Magazine's annual list of the World's Greatest Places. Dayna Spiring, president and CEO of Economic Development Winnipeg, said Winnipeg excels in a number of different areas such as business, art and tourism. "As our tourism sector begins to recover, this will help keep Winnipeg top-of-mind for travellers looking for an exciting destination to visit," she said in a news release. To put together the list, TIME's network of correspondents and contributors nominated places, particularly those offering new and exciting experiences.