

Media Scan

Wednesday October 13, 2021

[‘Very, very selfish’: N.S. restaurant association blasts proof-of-vaccination protesters](#)

After more than a year of dealing with closures and layoffs, restaurant workers are now facing another challenge: asking for proof of vaccination against COVID-19, a measure put in place by the provincial government earlier this month. On Friday night, a group of people held a demonstration against proof of vaccination requirements on Argyle Street in Halifax, a popular spot for dining in the city. At times, the protest impeded access to restaurants in the area, prompting the eatery East of Grafton to make a post on its Instagram page showing staff “standing around on a Friday night” during the protest. “This kind of demonstration hurts local small businesses and their employees first,” the post said. The restaurant declined to comment further when contacted by Global News. Gordon Stewart, the executive director of the Restaurant Association of Nova Scotia, agreed. He said it’s “sad” to see Nova Scotians acting this way.

[Restaurateurs could use help with proof-of-vaccination policy costs: industry expert](#)

Although the province's proof-of-vaccination requirement is a 'great way to keep our businesses open,' the Atlantic vice-president for Restaurants Canada says restaurateurs could use some help with the costs that come with implementing it. As of last Monday, anyone over the age of 12 that doesn't have a medical exemption or hasn't been granted a grace period that wants to access many non-essential services, including dining in restaurants, needs to show staff that they've been doubled dosed, along with a form of identification. "It's a lot of work for the industry to have to be the cop on this government policy," Luc Erjavec told NEWS 95.7's The Todd Veinotte Show. "There's a cost. It may be extra staff, it may be we're going to need scanners eventually, and some [restaurants] report a decline in sales."

[Nova Scotia throne speech pledges reforms to health care system, fixed election date](#)

Nova Scotia's new government said Tuesday finding solutions for the province's ailing health system is its top priority, but opposition parties said the Progressive Conservatives should also be focused on housing. Lt.-Gov. Arthur LeBlanc delivered the new government's first speech from the throne Tuesday, formally introducing the Tories' agenda ahead of what will be the first full in-person session of the legislature since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Sable Island has timeless allure](#)

Sable Island is a magical place. I was fortunate to have spent the past week there. I was selected as a volunteer to assist a research project with the construction of fences designed to exclude the island's famous horses from certain areas so that scientists can better understand the impacts of the animals on the ecology of the island. The study is a joint project between Parks Canada and the Sable Island Institute and is designed to last four years. Scientists will compare changes from nine sites where horses have been excluded with similar control sites over the same period to understand the influences of horses on dune processes, the integrity of freshwater ponds and rare species and their habitats.

[Ship Hector Society sets sights on sailing in 2023](#)

The Ship Hector Society is launching its Charting Our Course Campaign to help raise funds for the ship's restoration. Society leaders are hoping to have the boat restored by 2023, coinciding with the 250th anniversary of the ship's arrival in Pictou. The society and the campaign cabinet invited people to the Hector Quay for a ship restoration presentation and site walk-through. For the last two years, they have been preparing for the major restoration project for the Ship Hector and redevelopment of the Hector Heritage Quay.

[CBRM council bows to public pressure, seeks mandatory staff vaccination](#)

Cape Breton regional councillors say some constituents have made it clear they are in favour of mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for municipal staff, so council has directed the chief administrative officer to draft a policy that reflects that. CAO Marie Walsh previously said CBRM would not require staff to be vaccinated. Instead, she said, those who remain unvaccinated would be required to continue wearing a mask and submit to regular testing, even after the province lifts all health restrictions. At Tuesday's council meeting, Deputy Mayor Earlene MacMullin said her constituents disagreed loudly with that policy. "I have been inundated with phone calls and not one was saying thank you for not doing it," she said. "Every single one was upset. Every single one had the opinion that we were not providing the proper example going forward."

[Man ticketed for refusing to show proof of vaccination, wear a mask at Dartmouth fitness facility](#)

Police issued a ticket to a man who they say refused to show proof of vaccination and wear a mask when requested to do so by staff at a Dartmouth, N.S. fitness facility. Halifax Regional Police says on Oct. 5, officers responded to a private fitness facility in Dartmouth. Officers issued the man a summary offence ticket under the Health Protection Act for failing to comply with the act and its regulations which carries a fine of \$2,422 "HRP is reminding everyone to follow the current public health measures related to the COVID-19 emergency. We strongly advise members of the public to continue to educate themselves on these public health directives and COVID-19 enforcement measures," wrote police in a news release.

[Canada-U.S. will reopen land border to fully vaccinated visitors in November](#)

The United States land and sea border will reopen to non-essential travel in November after a record long closure due to concerns over COVID-19. The White House confirmed Tuesday night that fully vaccinated visitors from Canada and Mexico will be welcomed at land border crossings next month; however, officials would not specify what vaccines would be accepted or if mixed doses will meet eligibility tests. CTV News asked White House officials whether AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine, which has not been approved for use in the U.S., would be accepted under the travel eligibility guidelines and was told the U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention is working on the guidelines, but has no definitive answers at this time.

[Ontario restaurant owners warn Ford government 'civil disobedience' is coming without capacity changes](#)

Ontario restaurateurs are expressing their frustration with the provincial government after a cabinet minister failed to attend a meeting to discuss capacity limits in the hospitality industry, and staff asked attendees not to raise their concerns in the media. Restaurant owners launched a concerted campaign over the Thanksgiving long weekend to lift COVID-19 restrictions on their businesses to bring them in line with large sports venues and concert halls, which can now operate free of capacity and physical distancing measures as long as vaccination requirements are enforced. Currently, while restaurants are not subject to capacity limits they must maintain two meters of distance between tables which, the industry says, effectively limits the number of diners.

[City of Kingston looks to amend short-term rental bylaw](#)

It's become a source of income for many in the Limestone City: listing rooms, or entire properties on short-term rental sites like Airbnb. Since June of this year, all short-term rental operators have been required by the city to become licensed. So far, only 44 have done so. "We're now at the point, four months post-implementation of the bylaw, that we need to start to move forward and ensure a higher level of compliance with the bylaw and the program overall because the uptake so far has been on the low side," commissioner of community services for the City of Kingston Paige Agnew said. According to the city, the applications received so far represent only about 40 per cent of all the short-term rentals listed in Kingston.