

# Media Scan

Thursday November 25, 2021

## [Ottawa tables legislation to begin 'last step' of Canada's COVID-19 support programs](#)

In one of its first acts since the return of Parliament, the federal government has tabled legislation to create a suite of new, more selective pandemic support programs. The Liberal government says the change represents a more targeted approach to economic recovery that will carry Canada through the next phase of pandemic. "I see this legislation as very much the last step in our COVID support programs," said Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland during a Wednesday evening news conference. "It is what I really hope and truly believe is the final pivot." Freeland said positive recent developments — including high vaccination rates, the return of children to schools and the country's continued economic recovery — mean the broad government supports offered last year are no longer necessary.

## [COVID-19 outbreaks in Nova Scotia's Northern and Western zones under control](#)

Nova Scotia is reporting 20 new cases of COVID-19 Wednesday and 31 recoveries. Health officials say there are 18 people in hospital with COVID-19, including six in intensive care. There are 172 active cases in the province. Tim Houston, premier of Nova Scotia, announced Wednesday that the COVID-19 outbreaks in the Northern and Western zones are under control and cases in those areas seem to be trending down. "I'm pleased to say that things appear to be stabilizing, for now," said Houston in Wednesday's press conference. Dr. Robert Strang, Nova Scotia's chief medical officer of health, says the cases in the Halifax Regional Municipality are shifting from Central Halifax into suburban and semi-rural areas in and around the city. "Most cases are in children under 12 and that is having an impact on some schools, but with the rollout of the vaccine for children aged five to 11 we can expect to see less activity in the new year."

## [Could take 'days or weeks' to fix flood-damaged parts of Cape Breton](#)

It could be "days or weeks" before things get back to normal in flood-ravaged parts of Cape Breton following the rain and wind storm that swept across Nova Scotia, according to a provincial transportation official. Jamie Chisholm, the Department of Transportation's eastern district director, said Wednesday the hardest hit areas were Inverness and Victoria counties. "We've had multiple bridges compromised, some washed out completely, several roads that are impassable right now," he said. Nova Scotia's Emergency Management Office declared a state of emergency late Tuesday night for Victoria County after heavy rainfall washed out roads. The state of emergency was lifted Wednesday at noon.

## [Premier heading to U.S. for first international business trip](#)

The premier has announced his first international business trip. In a release on Thursday morning, government says Tim Houston will be heading to the United States to meet with government, trade and business leaders. "Given our strong ties to the United States and the strength of our cultural and trade links, it makes strategic sense that my first international trade and economic mission is to the U.S.," said Premier Houston. "I want Nova Scotians to have confidence that our government is pursuing opportunities and establishing relationships with our American trading partners."

## [Rail cars and wish lists: Supply chain issues starting to appear in Halifax](#)

If you've been noticing many rail cars and shipping containers sitting idle in Halifax lately, you're not alone. Experts say it's a direct result of the worldwide supply chain issues and a stark reminder to start your Christmas shopping early this year. "If you shop early, if the product you want isn't there, you may have time for them to be able to get that product in before Christmas," said Jim Cormier, Retail Council of Canada Atlantic director. Worries about produce are among the latest concerns but many other products are also being affected. Experts say that early COVID-19 shutdowns led to shortages, and pent-up demand. Now, labour shortages around the world, and even the severe storm that hit British Columbia, are making the problem worse.

## [Popular Shelburne eatery Charlotte Lane Café closes after 27-year run: "We're really happy to just relax and take care of ourselves" say owners](#)

It was a "rollicking last night" at the Charlotte Lane Café in Shelburne on Nov. 6. "It was quite a busy, fun night. There were lots of regulars there, friends and people who were friends as well as customers. It was a pretty upbeat night," says Kathleen Glaiser, who, along with her husband Chef Roland Glaiser, have operated the Charlotte Lane Café for 27 years. "He (Rollie) cooked this big pot of pasta and Cesar salad. One of our customers had brought us some sparkling wine so we had a little staff sit down at the end of the night which was a lovely way to end things." The couple had decided earlier this year it was time to retire. The couple had decided earlier this year it was time to retire. "It's been a challenging time to face all of the sadness that the customers have been expressing, meanwhile the two of us are so happy to have time... we're delighted to be taking care of ourselves," said Kathleen. "It's been a challenging time to face all of the sadness that the customers have been expressing, meanwhile the two of us are so happy to have time... we're delighted to be taking care of ourselves," said Kathleen.

### [Free parking in Montreal entices people to head downtown during the holidays](#)

Montreal is lifting parking fees in the downtown Ville-Marie borough in an effort to encourage people to do their holiday shopping in the city centre. "We hope that many Montrealers will come and support our downtown merchants for their holiday shopping," said Montreal Mayor Valérie Plante. "Our merchants give the city its special colours and flavours. After another year marked by the pandemic, they need our support more than ever." It's good news for merchants, who have struggled since the COVID-19 pandemic began.