

In the News

Atlantic Region

LMI
LABOUR MARKET
INFORMATION

A monthly summary of labour market news for the Atlantic Region

SEPTEMBER 2025

Highlights

(News published September 1st – 30th 2025)

- A consultant's review has reviewed Moncton's fire service and has proposed a \$285M plan over 15 years, in order to add more staff and build a sixth station.
- Latitude 47, a private Toronto-based company, is building a new \$50M purpose-built film and television soundstage in the town of Bauline in Greater St. John's.
- Enwave Energy Corporation will build a new \$180M waste processing plant in Charlottetown, which will take 90% of P.E.I.'s black bin waste to use for energy production.
- Nova Scotia is planning for over 300 megawatts of new onshore wind energy to come online by the end of 2026.
- The Canada Infrastructure Bank will provide a \$660M loan to Irving Pulp and Paper to support the \$1.1B modernization of its Saint John mill.
- ExxonMobil announced it will be cutting jobs in N.L. as part of a global restructuring plan.

Industry Updates

Wild blueberry growers in N.B. and N.S. have been impacted from the drought. The N.B. yield will be about 70% less than normal, while N.S.'s yield has been reduced by 55%. The industry adds about \$81M to the N.B. economy and creates about \$121M in annual exports in N.S.

Ottawa has announced a new \$13B housing agency called Build Canada Homes, with the aim to double the pace of housing construction over the next decade. Priorities include affordable housing, transitional housing, factory-built homes, and modernizing construction methods.

The federal government is now accepting applications from businesses for its \$450M Regional Tariff Response Initiative. The program's aim is to help businesses deal with trade shocks, explore new markets, boost productivity, and strengthen supply chains.

Newfoundland and Labrador

Latitude 47, a private Toronto-based company, is building a new \$50M purpose-built film and television soundstage in the town of Bauline in Greater St. John's. The company plans to grow and sustain production in Newfoundland as a year-round industry.

The N.L. Government has signed a \$561M contract with Medavie Health N.L. for an integrated ambulance system. The 10-year performance-based contract has a renew option to extend to 2040. Medavie Health N.L. is a private not-for-profit company.

The Government of Canada has announced a joint federal/provincial funding of over \$5.7M to extend the essential water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure in Labrador City needed to build more homes. This funding will enable the construction of up to 52 building lots along Waxwing Avenue.

Prince Edward Island

The developer of the Mill River Resort, wants to turn 30 acres of land at the Eagles Glenn golf course in Cavendish into a condo community with 42 homes. It is hoped that with more residents it could result in more services or keep services open year-round.

Enwave Energy Corporation will build a new \$180M waste processing plant in Charlottetown, which will take 90% of P.E.I.'s black bin waste to use for energy. The new facility is set to begin construction by early 2026 and is set to be functional in 2028.



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Over 150 Island companies have sought help from the province to diversify their markets away from the U.S. A number of Atlantic seafood companies will travel to Asia this month to secure new buyers. Atlantic Canada exported nearly \$1.5B in seafood in 2023.

The Port of Charlottetown reports that 60% of the cruise ship business it sees is during the fall season. Some restaurants say they often have to double staff when a ship is in. Besides being good for tourism, the cruise lines also buy Island products as well.

Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia is planning for over 300 megawatts of new onshore wind energy to come online by the end of 2026 from a combination of Benjamins Mill and three other wind projects by two different developers. Benjamins Mill (owned by Natural Forces) was initially expected to be operational by 2024 but has been delayed until later this year.

The N.S. Government has announced an \$8.7M investment through its Affordable Housing Development Program for private development company Richburg LP Management Inc. to create 58 affordable housing units as part of a 96-unit development in Dartmouth.

A new long-term care home, Opal Ridge Hall, is now open in Dartmouth. The new 144-bed facility is operated by Shannex. This is the 5th long-term

care home to open of the more than 50 being built by 2032.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada have increased the quota for the southwest Nova Scotia/Bay of Fundy herring fishery by 4,000 tonnes. The herring fishery in the Bay of Fundy and southwest N.S. typically supports an average of about 600 jobs and contributes about \$23M in annual wages. However, 2024's quota reduction resulted in lower total wages of \$16.4M and about 430 jobs.

New Brunswick

The Canada Infrastructure Bank will provide a \$660M loan to Irving Pulp and Paper to support the \$1.1B modernization of its Saint John mill. The project, known as Project NextGen, will upgrade a new boiler, steam turbine, and generator, as well as create good jobs.

Covered Bridge has opened a new potato chip plant in Woodstock, after the original plant burnt down in Hartland. The original location has reopened as a tourist attraction and pop-up gift shop. The owner states that there are more plans in the works.

The Université de Moncton will be N.B.'s first university to train physiotherapists when the program begins in 2027. The N.B. association wants more than the currently planned 12 seats, as it expects 200 openings will be needed to be filled over the next 10 years.

Job Creation

Newfoundland and Labrador

The Indigenous non-profit organization First Light is opening NL's first Indigenous-led health clinic at 36 Quidi Vidi Rd. in St. John's once construction is done. The clinic is expected to open by May 2026 with a staff over 100, including a family practitioner, nurse practitioners, a family physician, cultural support workers, a housing team, a harm reduction team, and Elder-led supports.

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC) is adding 17 new constables to the force that will be split between Metro St. John's and Corner Brook.

The Vida Nova Recovery Centre, is now open near Holyrood. The 32-acre addictions recovery facility will house detox, rehabilitation and transitional housing services and will offer a six-week inpatient recovery program focused on blending medical care, counselling, and peer support.

Nova Scotia

A new 104-space early learning and child-care centre on the Acadia University campus is currently in the planning stages and will offer spaces and programs for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. The centre is a partnership between the Province of N.S. and Acadia.





The Highland Health Home and Learning Centre is now open in New Glasgow. Recruitment is underway to add three new physicians, a simulation specialist and clinical nurse educator in addition to roles such as pharmacist, social worker, dietitian, nurse practitioner, chronic disease management nurse, family practice nurses, continuing care co-ordinator, administrative assistants, care team assistant and physician assistant.

New Brunswick

A consultant's review has looked at Moncton's fire service and has proposed a \$285M plan over 15 years, in order to add more staff and build a sixth station. The review recommended hiring 76 more staff, which would increase the city's staffing to 37 per shift.

Layoffs

Newfoundland and Labrador

ExxonMobil announced it will be cutting jobs in N.L. as part of a global restructuring plan. ExxonMobil is the lead owner in the Hibernia project and says it plans to cut 2,000 jobs globally, but how many will be cut in N.L. is unknown.

Prince Edward Island

The Cooper Institute says that Chinese seafood tariffs has led to more than 200 temporary foreign workers in P.E.I.'s seafood processing sector being laid-off this year or seen their hours cut. The seafood sector has faced various challenges in recent years.

Shaddy's Restaurant on Great George Street in Charlottetown is closing its Lebanese restaurant after 35 years in business. Although the restaurant will close on Sept 27, Shaddy's will still be a regular vendor at the Charlottetown Farmers' Market on Saturdays.

New Brunswick

Walker's Your Independent Grocer in Salisbury was destroyed by a fire on Sunday. The Main Street store employed 40 people and was the only grocery store in Salisbury, with the nearest grocery store being in Petitcodiac, N.B.

The sudden shutdown of the Captain Dan's processing facility in Bouctouche has led to supply issues among several New Brunswick seafood restaurants. Some restaurants have had to turn to new suppliers and in some cases pay higher prices.

Economic Reports

Canadian Chamber of Commerce

A study by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce shows that the N.B. cannabis industry contributes about \$1B a year into the province's GDP and created over 9,000 direct and indirect jobs. The cannabis sector has nearly doubled in size over a five-year period.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

A Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation report shows Halifax is seeing record levels of apartment construction, while the number of overall housing units that started construction in the first half of 2025 has dropped compared to previous years. Challenges include geopolitical and economic uncertainty, lengthy approval times and chronic labour shortages of experienced tradespeople.

Prepared by: Business Intelligence and Labour Market and Analysis, Service Canada - Atlantic Region

For further information, please contact us at: ATL-LMI-IMT-GD@servicecanada.gc.ca

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