

What's New in Nova Scotia

Fall 2007

Our Offshore Accord



The Atlantic Accord is alive and well. The clarification which we and the federal government agreed upon on October 10th makes us better off financially than we were when we signed the Accord in 2005.

That is a fact. It is also a fact that Nova Scotia stands to receive hundreds of millions of dollars more when the value of the Crown share is determined in March 2008.

If there ever was a time that showed how individual actions can make a difference, this was it. The letters to Members of Parliament, MLAs and newspapers; the people who stopped me in the streets and stores to offer their encouragement; the almost 10,000 people who signed our on-line petition—all these actions and many more told me that I had the support of Nova Scotians. Your actions helped our negotiations and I thank you.

I also wish to thank all Nova Scotia MLAs and MPs who helped keep this issue on the nation's front burner over the past months.

Resolving the Accord dispute with Ottawa gives us millions more equalization dollars for the services that Nova Scotians need like better health care and education, and new and better roads.

Thank you all for your help in making Nova Scotia a stronger province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rodney MacDonald". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rodney MacDonald, *Premier*

The Atlantic Accord

Following the successful negotiations led by Premier MacDonald, Nova Scotians are now expected to receive:

1. \$68 million more next year than what Ottawa's March 2007 budget offered us.
2. \$1.5 billion more than what Ottawa's March 2007 budget offered us under the Expert Panel Formula by 2020.
3. \$229 million more than what the original interpretation of the Accord gave us by 2020.

Crown Share

A three person panel will resolve a 20 year dispute over the value of offshore resources by mid-March. We are confident Nova Scotians will receive hundreds of millions of dollars from our Crown share.

The New Nova Scotia

Making Inroads on Wait Times

The Right Equipment

More than \$90 million has been invested in new equipment in the last five years with the help of the federal government.

Six new MRIs across the province have cut the wait time in half, helping more than 5,000 patients.

Three bone density machines have been added, a PET scanner is opening in Halifax, and most of our major hospitals have added state-of-the-art CT scanners.

Nova Scotians can access faster care by visiting www.gov.ns.health.waittimes.ca to find when the next MRI, CT scans, ultrasounds and other screening services are available.

Nova Scotia leads the country in the number of women getting mammograms (58%). We are also the first in Canada to open a mobile digital mammography unit, which will double the number of women screened everyday. New digital units have also been added in Lower Sackville and Yarmouth.

The Right Services

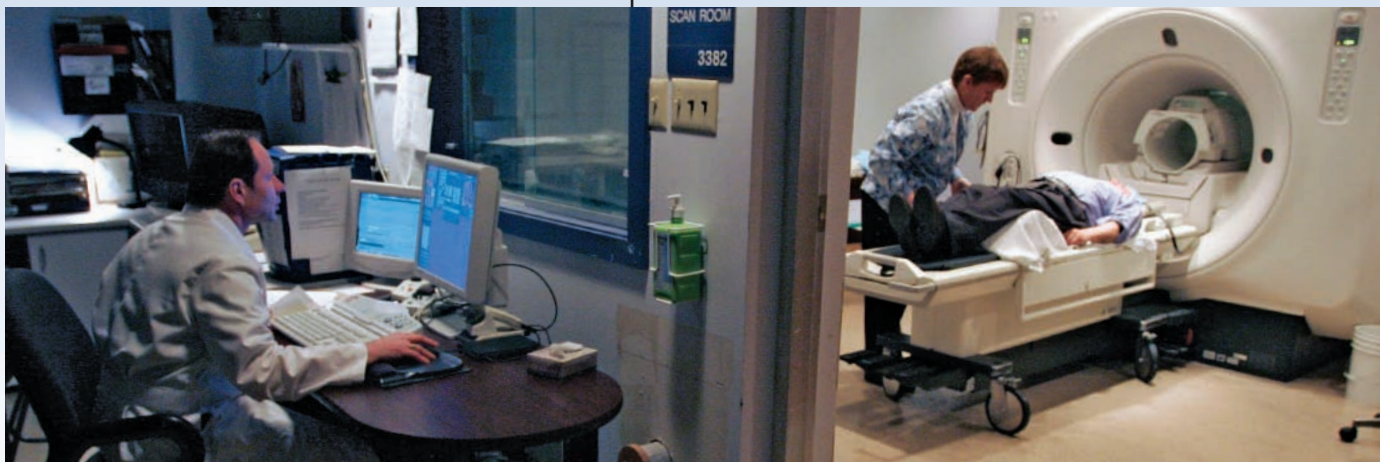
In March, Nova Scotia secured \$48 million from the federal government to address wait times, and to establish a wait time guarantee for cancer radiation therapy. Brand new chronic pain clinics will open across the province.

Work is underway on a new \$17 million emergency room expansion for Capital Health so that we may continue to provide the best trauma centre in the East.

A site is being cleared for a new hospital in Truro, with an expanded ER.

By 2010, 832 new nursing home beds will open. To date, 120 nursing home beds have opened across the province. An additional \$3.6 million has been provided to districts for the development expansion of services to help patients waiting for long-term care beds.

A \$3 million colorectal cancer screening program is being created to encourage early detection.



A Path to 2020

The Right People

Every year the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) shows we have more GPs per capita than almost every other province. Since January 2007, we have hired 55 more doctors—31 family physicians and 24 specialists. Fifty four of those doctors settled in rural areas. Two nurse practitioners and an ER doctor are being hired for the Digby area.

We value our nurses and have spent \$60 million in the last five years to help recruit and retain them. Over 85 per cent of our graduates are employed at home. By December 2007, another 300 nurses will graduate—at least 200 of these graduates have job offers jobs here. The districts are expected to make more offers in the coming months.



Best Practices Legislation

On October 18th, amendments to the Trade Union Act were unveiled. These amendments followed months of consultation with Nova Scotians following the release of a discussion paper in June.

The legislation is designed to preserve the collective bargaining process while protecting the health, safety and well being of the public and covers 32,000 workers in the health care and community services sectors. The proposed legislation draws upon the best collective bargaining practices in Canada. It is based on the principles of fairness, equality and impartiality. It offers a range of options to settle disputes, which the parties themselves can choose.

The legislation is about respect. It respects the collective bargaining process. It respects workers rights. Please take a look at the legislation by visiting www.gov.ns.ca. You can provide us with your views by emailing us at policy@gov.ns.ca. You can also phone us at (902) 424-2366 or toll free at 1-800-567-7544.



The New Nova Scotia, A Path to 2020

Creating Winning Conditions

Through our business attraction agency, Nova Scotia Business Inc., opportunities are growing daily for Nova Scotians, with jobs being created across the province. Here are a few examples:

- General Dynamics Canada will create up to 165 new jobs in Dartmouth
- Acrobat Research Nova Scotia Ltd. is creating up to 150 jobs at its new location in Greenwood.
- Nova Scotia-based IT Interactive Services Inc. plans to create 200 jobs over the next six years in the Halifax area.
- Trihedral Engineering Ltd. is creating up to 180 new positions in Bedford.
- Advanced Glazings in Sydney is expanding and will create 50 jobs this year and up to 320 over the following five years.
- IMP Aerospace Components, a division of IMP Group Ltd, will create up to 325 new full-time jobs over the next five years in Amherst.
- Protocase will create 139 jobs expanding its technology based operations in Sydney.

In addition, the Department of Economic Development's Industrial Expansion Fund created 334 jobs with funding of almost \$36 million.

EnCana Corporation has decided to develop the Deep Panuke natural gas field offshore Nova Scotia. This \$700 million project is expected to start production in 2010. The project will mean a guarantee of 1.35 million hours of work in Nova Scotia, with at least 850,000 hours of that work to be done by Nova Scotians. The work will include jobs related to project engineering, design, procurement, fabrication and

manufacturing. The work is guaranteed under the Offshore Strategic Energy Agreement signed by the province and EnCana.

Opportunities Nova Scotia

The province has launched **Opportunities Nova Scotia** to better connect local employers and job seekers, helping Nova Scotians stay home, move back, and attract newcomers.

More than 2,300 jobs from 95 employers have been posted. This month, some of the province's biggest employers—including the Department of Health—are attending events in Ottawa, Toronto, Mississauga, Calgary and Edmonton, to let ex-patriots know about the wealth of impressive opportunities available here at home.



For more information about **Opportunities Nova Scotia**, visit the website www.opportunitiesns.ca

To see job listings, follow the *Job Seekers* link in the top right corner.