

The Atlantic Labour Market Report's

Labour Market Hot Sheet

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October 1st, 2026



2026 Atlantic Labour Market Year-in-Review Workshop

Online: Fri. Dec. 11th, 2026

35% Discount ENDS NEXT WEEK: Thurs. Oct. 8th

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Panel releases report aiming to spur Atlantic Canada's economic growth

Economics / Inter-Provincial Cooperation

The **Atlantic Economic Panel**, an independent group of business leaders, has released "*Bolder Ambitions: Greater Prosperity for All*," a report with seven recommendations seeking to promote the region's economic growth, productivity, and ability to compete and attract investors.

In its report, the panel suggests that the region:

- Take a "One Atlantic Canada" approach to economic issues
- Make speedier project decisions a competitive advantage
- Create an integrated regional electricity system
- Fully develop natural resources
- Win the competition for talent
- Adopt a business growth mindset, driven by productivity and artificial intelligence (AI)
- Establish a \$1 billion Atlantic prosperity fund

According to a news release from the **Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA)**, the panel's recommendations



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Do you need to change your personality to find a job?

This week for **#MotivatingMondays**, we discussed the growing trend of 'employer paralysis' where employers are opting to neither hire new people nor let go of existing ones. We look at seven specific things job developers can do to capture an employer's attention. A

aim to help the region scale AI adoption, improve regulatory processes, and tackle the financing gap.

More on Atlantic Economic Panel

Established in November 2025, the panel is composed of seven business leaders from across the region: Don Mills, Cathy Bennett, Joyce Carter, Mike Cassidy, J. Scott McCain, Chief Terry Richardson, and Anne Whelan.

"Last year, I asked seven Atlantic Canadian leaders to take an honest look at our economy and tell us the hard truths, not simply what we wanted to hear," said Sean Fraser, federal justice minister and attorney general and minister responsible for the ACOA, in the news release. "This report is their answer."

"We are grateful to Minister Fraser for giving this Panel the independence to take an honest, unvarnished look at Atlantic Canada's economy," added Mills, the panel's chair. "What we found is a region with the people, resources and entrepreneurial spirit to compete with anyone in the world – and a once-in-a-generation opportunity to bring prosperity to every part of it, rural and urban alike."

The panel unveiled the report at an event in Riverview, New Brunswick. Apart from panel members, attendees included Susan Holt, New Brunswick's premier; Tim Houston, Nova Scotia's premier; Atlantic economic development ministers; business and community leaders; and Indigenous representatives.

The federal government said it would consider the panel's recommendations and decide which recommendations have the potential for swift action, when regional collaboration is necessary, and where governments, businesses, and other partners can adjust existing approaches.

Atlantic Economic Forum Next Year

To assist with the efforts to improve prosperity in Atlantic Canada, Fraser also announced federal support of almost \$400,000 for **St. Francis Xavier University** to host an **Atlantic Economic Forum** in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, from May 31, 2027, to June 2, 2027.

The ACOA noted that the forum will unite regional and national leaders, who will further discuss ideas to spur Atlantic Canada's economic growth, identify relevant opportunities, and address areas for improvement.

*"Now is the time to build on this momentum and work together to help businesses in the Atlantic region forge connections, grow, and build a more competitive regional economy," said Dominic LeBlanc, minister responsible for Canada-US trade, intergovernmental affairs, internal trade, and **One Canadian Economy**, in the ACOA's news release.*

poor economy or economic uncertainty doesn't mean employers can't continue to grow and expand their businesses. American Airlines, Fisher-Price, KFC, Texas Instruments, Warner Bros., and Westin Hotels all opened for business in 1930, the first year of the Great Depression.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

[Read the Sep. 28th Job Development Pulse](#)

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We make these sessions available EVERY WEEK on **YouTube** and most podcast platforms for people who can't attend in person. Voted best 'Job Development Podcast' at the 2026 VMA Awards.

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Next Topic:
What can we learn from HR Fest Canada 2026?

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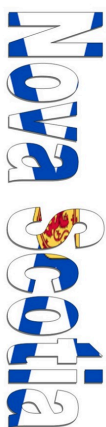
New programs and training spaces being added at CCNB Dieppe

Education / Skills Development

The government is investing almost \$10 million to expand training in the health sector. **Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick** (CCNB) in Dieppe will receive \$9.9 million over three years to add space and new programs. The pharmacy technician and primary care paramedic programs will be the first ones added in the fall of 2027.

The Dieppe campus already offers about 40 regular programs and can accommodate approximately 840 students. Its master plan calls for a gradual modernization of the campus to optimize learning spaces. Work will soon begin on adding six modular classrooms and six health laboratories on the Dieppe campus. More than 330 additional graduates are anticipated over the next five years in critical health disciplines.

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International Student Employment Programs Applications Now Open!

Education / Recruitment

Applications are now open for **Acadia's 2026–27 International Student Employment Program** (ISEP). The program provides funding to help create additional on-campus employment opportunities for international students.

There are two important changes to ISEP funding for 2026–27. Funding will be provided at a 50% rate only. Full funding requests will not be available this year, and departments must be able to cover the remaining 50% of the eligible employment costs. Funding must also create a new employment opportunity. ISEP cannot be used to subsidize an international student who has already been hired. Approved positions will be posted following the funding decision and filled through a new hiring process.

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Island students find the path to employment at first career pathways fair

Science / Technology



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STEAM P.E.I. hosted its inaugural career pathways fair this week. Organizers say the goal is to highlight jobs in science, technology, engineering, arts and math, and the steps students need to take to get hired.

CBC's Camryn Farquharson stopped by **Three Oaks Senior High in Summerside** to check it out.

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Film jobs are booming in Newfoundland. So where are they going to shoot?

Film and Television / Entertainment

Audiences in St. John's got a sneak peek Wednesday at the latest big-budget production showcasing Newfoundland and Labrador to the world. Dozens were invited to a special screening of *Below*, a drama starring Josh Hartnett headed for a worldwide release next month on streaming giant **Netflix**.

The production spent big during its shooting in 2025, helping boost the film industry to a milestone year. Industry incubator **PictureNL** — a project by Newfoundland and Labrador's provincial government — said spending in 2025 hit more than \$150 million across multiple productions.

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Major labour market stories from the past week

Breaking Labour Market News for New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador

- Economic profile: St. John's (CMA), Newfoundland and Labrador ([Click Here](#))
- PEI Arts Share Dissemination Grant Program (Canada) ([Click Here](#))
- Public Health supporting greater understanding of rural homelessness in Western Nova Scotia ([Click Here](#))
- Report: Youth need consistent mentoring to help navigate the job market ([Click Here](#))
- Canada Releases List of Employers Approved To Hire Foreign Workers Across 4 Atlantic Provinces ([Click Here](#))
- Public input wanted on a population growth strategy for NL ([Click Here](#))

- Canada-US trade tensions to weigh on growth, but labour market shows resilience ([Click Here](#))
- 'Keep that talent home': N.S. miner returns as province revives gold mine operations ([Click Here](#))
- Federal government looks to usher in new students as 700K tradespeople expected to retire by 2030 ([Click Here](#))
- New Collaborative Initiative Launched to Enhance Downtown Cleanliness ([Click Here](#))
- Data centre employment grows by 23% in Canada: report ([Click Here](#))
- Population Growth Strategy 2026-2031 for Newfoundland and Labrador ([Click Here](#))
- Kent Building Supplies Joins Nova Scotia Loyal ([Click Here](#))
- Government of Canada introduces legislation to transform how Canada builds ([Click Here](#))
- Ottawa tightens rules for Atlantic Immigration Program applicants with employment changes ([Click Here](#))
- New Hires Needed for Food Security ([Click Here](#))
- New Partnership for Nova Scotia Guard ([Click Here](#))

This Week on LinkedIn

Please take the time to 'like' or follow:

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Check out our new Podcast: [#MotivatingMondays](#) which looks exclusively at the Job Development Sector.

- Federal Investment Will Connect 4,700 Atlantic Canadian Youth with Green Career Opportunities ([Click Here](#))
- New Brunswick pulp mill to close, wiping out hundreds of jobs ([Click Here](#))
- SMART Canada Graduates 11 Sheet Metal Workers in Nova Scotia ([Click Here](#))
- Food inspection agency phasing out vehicle-washing stations at N.L. Marine Atlantic terminals ([Click Here](#))

On our social media feeds we only post labour market and job search information, research and the occasional ironic observation. You can trust our **LinkedIn** feeds. We carefully evaluate social media posts to see if they would be valuable to you.

We don't want to waste your time. Although we might be tempted to post an article like: [CEO asked him to think like an owner. His 'Will you give me 50% of the company?' reply went viral.](#) *Although, the employee has a point saying, "owners take risks, hold equity and share in a company's success, unlike salaried employees who receive fixed compensation regardless of extra effort." I also hear that owners get paid more.*

Your time is valuable and we wouldn't want to waste it, follow us on [LinkedIn](#) :-)

Community Calendar

Career Development Events

2026 Atlantic Labour Market Year-in-Review Workshop

Fri. Dec. 11th (Online) | 9:30am - 3:30pm

35% DISCOUNT ON REGISTRATION ENDS NEXT WEEK, OCTOBER 8TH

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#MotivatingMondays for Job Developers

Monday October 5th at 12:30pm in the Maritimes / 1:00pm in Newfoundland

Topic: What can we learn from HRFest Canada 2026?

Hosted by the Canadian Job Development Network

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Job Postings

Career Development Employment

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(When you write your cover letter, please mention you saw this advertisement in the Atlantic Labour Market Report)

[Program Coordinator – Y-RISE](#)

YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth

Halifax, NS

Closes: Oct. 2, 2026

[Community Liaison](#)

YMCA of Southwestern New Brunswick

Saint John, NB

Closes: Unknown

Did you know?

Fascinating Facts

Most senior HR leaders now believe AI is putting the next generation of executives at risk.

Seventy-eight percent are concerned about the long-term loss of critical leadership skills as AI takes over tasks once used to train junior staff. Entry-level postings have flatlined in AI-exposed sectors even as "seniorised" junior roles have grown 35% since 2019.

Research also found 73% of the employees using AI most productively are managers or executives, leaving individual contributors, who handle most automatable tasks, underserved by training.

- Talogy

Quote of the Week

Career Inspiration

"Don't give up, no matter how hard it is. Things are going to be tough down the road, but the more work you put in, the more achievement you're going to get out of it."

- Alphonso Davies

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