

MAY 2024 MONTH IN REVIEW

Nova Scotia

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Accessibility

May 7: Richmond County launched accessibility upgrades and a new sidewalk to [improve access to municipal buildings](#). The project aimed to enhance access to the municipal administration building, École Beau-Port, Petit-de-Grat Public Library, and the scale house at the waste management transfer station. Funded by provincial programs, the county received over \$468,000 for these improvements.

Action Point: Find out more about [accessibility laws across Canada](#)

New Laws

May 15: Nova announced a new [action plan](#) to improve services for individuals with autism and their families.

New Laws

May 22: The provincial government and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union reached a new three-year agreement. Terms weren't disclosed but the government is planning to post the contract on its website in the coming weeks

Training

May 3: Nova Scotia increased training seats for [medical laboratory technologists](#) at NSCC from 40 to 60 starting in September. Last year, a second program with the Michener Institute began, blending online and in-person learning for 40 students. Eighteen students completed their first year, and 12 others finished a bridging

program, with 9 passing their licensure exams.

CASES

Labour Relations: Top Court Sides with Management in Ambulance Worker Wage Dispute

As in many provinces, Nova Scotia has legislation to prevent work stoppages in the essential services sector by requiring unions and management to go to a labour board to resolve negotiating deadlocks. The board then applies what's called the "replication principle" in ensuring that the arbitration award replicates what the board believes would have resulted from free collective bargaining with the possibility of a work stoppage. Following these principles, the board resolved a wages impasse between ambulance workers and EMC, a province-wide ambulance services provider, by adopted EMC's proposed wage schedule, subject to an upward adjustment for one of classification. The union cried foul and the appeal court reversed after faulting the board for failing to take inflation into account. But EMC got the last laugh when the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal restored the original award. The board's ruling was reasonable and in line with the law said the top court, noting that inflation isn't a criterion under the statute [[EMC Emergency Medical Care Inc. v. Canadian Union of Postal Workers](#), 2024 NSCA 55 (CanLII), May 23, 2024].