

BUSINESS RESOURCE HUB & ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

May 2021



City Initiatives and Updates

City and Partners Unveil the Johnson Innovation Station

The City of St. John's and Genesis, with the financial support of the provincial and federal governments, announced a unique partnership to cultivate community, economic and entrepreneurial activity in the historic Railway Coastal Museum at 495 Water Street. The facility, now named the '**Johnson Innovation Station**', will look to the future through the development of new business and technology while celebrating milestones of the past, through the operation of a seasonal Railway Coastal Museum. Genesis Co-working will occupy the top two floors of the building as a new home based for entrepreneurs, start-ups, freelancers, and remote workers to help bridge the gap between formal and home offices. Complementing the coworking model, the space will now become the new home of Genesis' Evolution program, a pre-incubation, idea accelerator, that works with start-up tech companies. Learn more [here](#).



Reminder Deadline Approaching for Downtown Pedestrian Mall

Planning to build a parklet for the summer?

If you own a business located inside the Pedestrian Mall, please apply for your parklet by **May 31, 2021**. This deadline will allow the City to identify vacant spaces inside the road closure area that may be available for other downtown businesses. There are two checklists available to guide business owners through the parklet application process www.stjohns.ca.

Municipal Plan and Development Regulations in Final Approval Stage

St. John's City Council has adopted amendments to [Envision St. John's](#), Council's policy document for present and future land use and

development. Envision was developed from an extensive consultation process and the comments of many interested citizens, community groups, property owners and businesses, with the direction of Council and the professional input of City staff. A virtual Public Hearing will take place regarding the Envision St. John's Municipal Plan and Development Regulations on **June 9, 2021**. Provide your comments to the Office of the City Clerk including your name and address to cityclerk@stjohns.ca by 9:30 a.m. Monday, June 7, 2021. While Council is not legally bound to accept the recommendations, Council does consider them seriously in its final decision on whether or not to make changes to Envision St. John's before voting on whether to approve it. Learn more: <http://stjohns.ca>

News Briefs

Canada and PRNL Announce Project Recipients of ERF Offshore RD&D Funding

Project recipients of the Emissions Reduction Fund's Offshore Research, Development and Demonstration Program were recently announced. The program aims to accelerate emissions reduction and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. **Sixteen projects** are receiving a total of \$24.4 million from Natural Resources Canada, managed by Petroleum Research Newfoundland and Labrador, to investigate how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Canada's offshore oil and gas operations. The projects include companies that facilitate research, technology development and innovation for Canada's offshore. They explore ways to decarbonize offshore operations, including drilling, production and transportation. The pursuit of net zero within the offshore oil and gas industry will help drive innovation and economic growth for Newfoundland and Labrador.

New pathways to permanent residency

Applications are now open for the [new pathway to permanent residence](#) for essential workers and international graduates who are already in Canada on temporary status. These are temporary policies announced by the Government of Canada to grant residency to 90,000 temporary workers and students as part of its goal to admit 401,000 immigrants this year. Eligible applicants can submit their applications to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada [online portal](#) from May 6 to November 5 or until the limit is reached. Any foreign resident who graduated from a Canadian university or college within the past four years will be able to apply. Temporary foreign workers in 40 occupations related to health care will qualify. The Association for New Canadians (ANC) can provide more information, contact applyPR@ancnl.ca.

Supports for Atlantic Immigration Pilot

The ANC continues to offer [Atlantic Immigration Pilot](#) program supports at no charge to both employers and employees. Employers interested in

learning more about the AIP program can contact the ANC's AIP Officer, at 709-552-2262 or znoel@ancnl.ca. Endorsed employees who are permanent residents can contact Sonia Krajewska at skrajewska@ancnl.ca.

Virtual Event Listings

May 12 COVID-19 Employee Vaccine Policy Framework

May 12 Noia's Virtual AGM

May 13 Selling On Instagram In 2021

May 14 Business Planning workshop

May 14 Low Carbon Offshore Oil and Gas: International Trends and Canadian Investments

May 17 Leading and Engaging a Remote Workforce

May 19 NLOWE Annual General Meeting

May 26 APEC's Major Projects 2021 Industry Panel

Select dates May & June Digital and Social Media Communication & Engagement



Latest Economic Indicators



City of St. John's Building Permits

As of May 10, 2021:

Commercial permits were down -40% from \$26,306,708.22 in 2020 to \$15,775,479.44 in 2021

Industrial permits were valued at \$3,000.00 for 2020 and \$4,007,500.00 for 2021

Government/Institutional permits were up from \$134,000.00 in 2020 to \$779,941.00 in 2021*

Residential permits were up 80% to \$13,118,002.13 for 2021 over \$7,305,540.48 for 2020

Repair permits were up from \$276,340.00 in 2020 to \$2,090,157.00 in 2021

Total value of all permits was **up 5%** to \$35,771,079.57 for 2021 over \$34,025,588.70 for 2020

**Note that this data does not include the full range of permit activity undertaken by the provincial government and Memorial University.*



...as of April 2021

- **Labour Force** 111,800 (down -2.5%)
- **Unemployment Rate** 9.3% (down -0.7 pts)
- **Employment** 101,400 (down -1.7%)
- **Participation Rate** 61.5% (down -2.0 pts)

St. John's CMA, seasonally adjusted, three-month moving average. Percentage change reflects the same month previous year. Source: Statistics Canada.



The **New Housing Price Index** for St. John's Metro was 101.5 in March 2021 up 4.4%*

The **Consumer Price Index** for St. John's Metro was 142.2 in March 2021 up 2.4%*

Retail trade for Newfoundland and Labrador was \$775 million in February 2021 up 1.7%*

** St. John's CMA, same month in the previous year.
Source: Statistics Canada
**seasonally adjusted,.*



Atlantic Cultivation, 50 Captain Prim Dr.

2021 Total 36

- Regular 26
- Home-based 10

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