

# TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

## QUEBEC BUBBLE WOULD INCLUDE ONLY TWO COMMUNITIES: HIGGS

ADAM HURAS  
PARLIAMENT HILL

Premier Blaine Higgs says a few select communities in Quebec will likely soon become part of the New Brunswick bubble, while adding that it won't be the entire region bordering the

province's northwest.

The premier has said this week he's instructed officials to take a serious look at dropping travel restrictions to the Gaspé Peninsula, the area along the south shore of the Saint Lawrence River which neighbours the northwest corner of New Brunswick.

But he's now being a little more specific about what that means.

In an interview, Higgs has specifically named two communities: The Avignon Regional County Municipality, the region directly across the bridge from Campbellton, and Temiscouata Regional County Municipality, an area close to

Edmundston and Lac Baker.

"I have asked for a recommendation from Health in relation to what area would work," Higgs said.

"They are coming back with specifics in the sense of what particular

PLEASE SEE → **BUBBLE, A7**

## U.S. border stays closed another month

ADAM HURAS  
PARLIAMENT HILL

OTTAWA • Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has confirmed the Canadian-U.S. border will remain closed to non-essential travel until at least Aug. 21.

It's a ban on discretionary travel that was first introduced in March and has been extended for five straight months, with potentially no change in sight as COVID-19 case numbers climb south of the border.

"Once again, Canada and the United States have agreed to extend the current border measures by one month until Aug. 21," Trudeau said on Thursday.

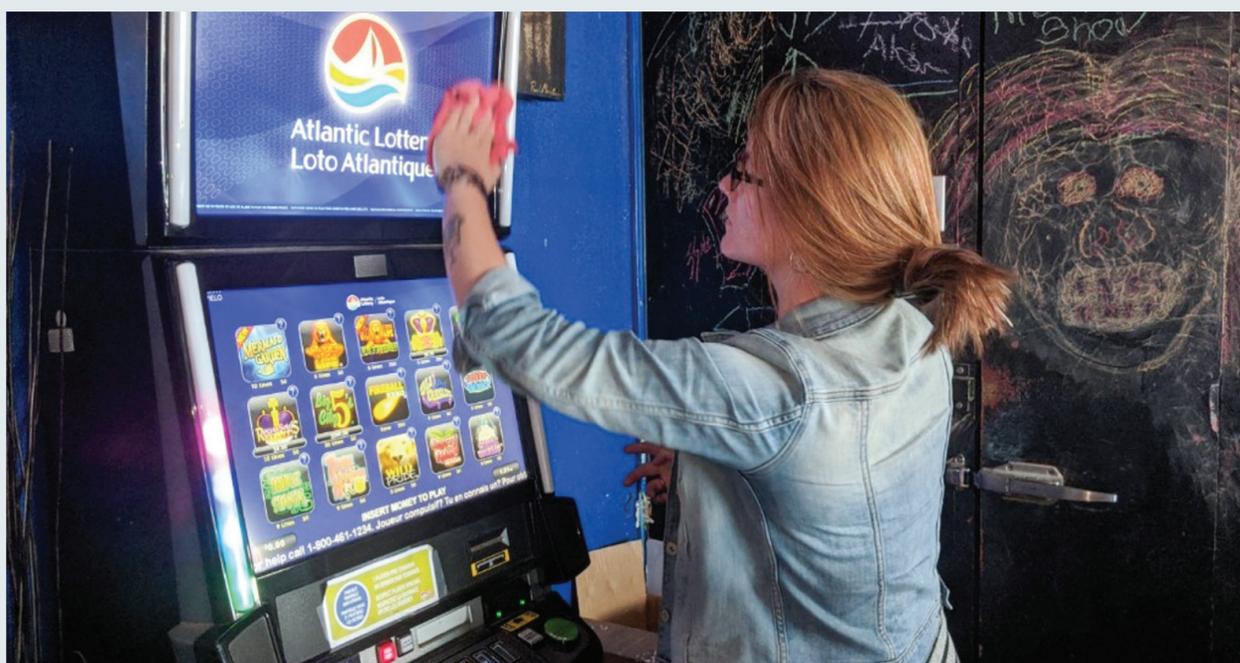
"We're going to keep working closely with our American neighbours to keep people safe on both sides of the border."

It comes after Canada's Deputy Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Howard Njoo delivered a frank assessment of the pandemic's presence in both countries earlier this week.

"You can look at the data. The situation in Canada and the U.S., from a pure epidemiological point of view, is vastly different," Njoo said on Tuesday.

PLEASE SEE → **BORDER, A2**

## Spinning into poverty



Sarah Boyne, bartender at Iceberg Pub in Moncton, wipes the screen of a video lottery terminal on Friday afternoon. Gamblers at the bar declined to be photographed. PHOTO: DAVID GORDON KOCH/TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

## Think tank report says low-income Atlantic Canadians spend twice as much on gambling as the wealthy

DAVID GORDON KOCH  
TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

The Atlantic provinces are addicted to revenues from low-income gamblers, and the COVID-19 crisis is a good chance to break the habit, says an Ontario think tank.

The new report from Cardus, titled "Royally

Flushed," calls for reforms to the gaming system managed by the Atlantic Lottery Corporation.

The ALC generated \$1.2 billion in gaming revenues in the 2018-19 fiscal year, with ticket lottery and VLTs the biggest sources of income, according to the report.

That accounts for 1-2 per cent of income for the provinces, it says, but an outsized portion of that

money comes from the poorest segment of the population.

"It's a significantly higher proportion of their income compared to what the rich are paying," said Brian Dijkema, one of the co-authors of the report.

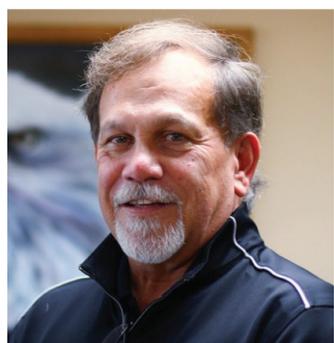
The average household in the highest-income

PLEASE SEE → **POVERTY, A2**



Canada's Deputy Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Howard Njoo said Tuesday the pandemic situation in the U.S. and Canada 'is vastly different.'

PHOTO: PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA



Eel Ground (Natoaganeg) First Nation Chief George Ginnish

## Marshall Inquiry fuelled change, chiefs say

DAVID GORDON KOCH  
TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

In the 1970s, a Mi'kmaq teenager in Nova Scotia was wrongfully convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison.

First Nations chiefs in New Brunswick are pointing to the Royal Commission into the Donald Marshall Jr. case as an example of how an inquiry can result in change.

Marshall spent more than 11 years behind bars following the 1971 death of Sandy Seale before a royal commission exonerated him and uncovered systemic racism in the justice system.

Seale, a 17-year-old Black youth, was stabbed in a park in Sydney, N.S. during a late-night confrontation with Roy Ebsary, 59, a former ship's cook. Seale died in hospital the next day.

Following his conviction, Marshall was held at federal prisons in Dorchester, and

Springhill, N.S. He briefly escaped from the Springhill Institution in 1979 but was recaptured.

The 1989 inquiry, called by then federal Minister of Justice Jean Chrétien, found the criminal justice system failed Marshall "at virtually every turn." It said the fact that Marshall was Indigenous was among the reasons police identified him as the prime suspect, and they failed to

PLEASE SEE → **INQUIRY, A7**

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**Atlantic bubble** Province to meet with mayors to discuss border delays **A5**

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# National policing body to push for race-based data collection

SAVANNAH AWDE  
LEGISLATURE BUREAU

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) has pledged to work with local police forces on collecting race-based data to include in Statistics Canada's police-reported crime statistics.

The move was announced via a statement on July 15, and comes in the wake of two Indigenous deaths at the hands of two different police forces last month in New Brunswick – Rodney Levi, a Metepenagiag First Nation man, just eight days after Tla-o-qui-aht woman Chantel Moore.

“The need for quality data about the experience of Indigenous peoples and ethno-cultural communities with Canada's criminal justice system is paramount to understanding the extent to which people from these communities are represented in Canada's criminal justice system, beginning with their interactions with the police,” co-chair of the CACP's Police Information and Statistics Committee, deputy chief Stu Betts of the London Police Service.

“Statistics Canada and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police know that the demand for this information has never been greater and are committed to identifying ways to provide reliable police statistics on Indigenous and ethno-cultural groups,” the statement reads.

“We look forward to working with organizations, police and key stakeholders to advance improving police-reported data on Indigenous and ethno-cultural groups.”

On June 16, Statistics Canada noted the COVID-19 pandemic had highlighted a need for more national statistics reporting by ethnicity and other categories.

“For Statistics Canada to provide more disaggregated information for population groups, the data must first be collected in a standardized way to allow for meaningful comparisons. A sufficient volume of data must also be collected to enable these comparisons.”

They added that partners across organizations and jurisdictions must also help supply the information.

## Province collecting race-based data inconsistently

A few weeks before the CACP statement, a Brunswick News feature reported that local police forces across

the province either don't collect race-based data, or do so infrequently or inconsistently.

While there is no standardized process for municipal or regional police departments, the New Brunswick Police Commission – a civilian body that oversees complaints against municipal and regional police forces and their policies – spoke in favour of standardized collection and reporting when asked by Brunswick News.

Kevin Vickers, an RCMP officer for nearly 30 years and the current provincial Liberal party leader, also said standard data collection and reporting by race is essential to address systemic inequalities.

“I've worked all across the country in policing, and just like every other sector of society, racism exists in our country,” Vickers said at the Legislative Assembly. “It's regrettable, and to much extent it's repugnant. We all have to recognize it's an issue, be forthright, and deal with it head-on.”

“The only way you can really get a handle on and make the appropriate implementation of changes that are needed is by having accurate data,” he said.

The province's Department of Public Safety can impose a standard for data collection, but the minister was not made available for interview on the subject. Instead, spokesperson Coreen Enos told Brunswick News the minister is “engaged in discussions” on data collection practices in policing.

## Reporting as important as collection: expert

St. Thomas University professor Michael Boudreau told Brunswick News the completeness of the data that's reported matters as much as its collection.

“The risk that we run is that if then all this information is put out, or if we don't put out all of the data and we only put out some of it, then it may start to reinforce some of the stereotypical and racist beliefs that, ‘Oh, Indigenous peoples are prone to violence,’ or ‘Black Canadians are prone to drug use,’” he said.

“If we don't release the full picture and people only receive snippets, people may think, ‘Oh, well that just reinforces what I believe about Indigenous people, and that's what I thought about Black people.’ And if so, we may have actually just made the problem worse.”



St. Thomas University professor Michael Boudreau told Brunswick News that the completeness of the data is reported matters as much as its collection.

PHOTO: BRUNSWICK NEWS ARCHIVES

# Canada-U.S. border stays closed another month

BORDER →A1

“If the epidemiology of the U.S. and Canada with respect to COVID-19 were similar ... we might be having a different conversation. But the fact is today in Canada we've done a good job of flattening our curve.”

“If you look at the number of cases we have on a daily basis it's in the neighbourhood of 300 cases per day. In the U.S. it's been more than 60,000 per day and the situation doesn't appear to be changing quickly.”

He suggested his recommendation on the border closure won't change until the spread of the virus subsides.

“Myself, from a public health perspective, the priority is to protect the health and safety of Canadians,” Njoo said. “Canadians have made

tremendous sacrifices to date in terms of flattening the curve. We're seeing the fruits of our labours and we're very mindful we don't want to waste those efforts by reintroducing the virus to Canada and increasing the risk of further transmission.

“From a strictly public health perspective, the measures we've taken to date are reasonable and myself, (Canada's Chief Public Health Officer) Dr. (Theresa) Tam and others will continue to give this government our best advice based on the public health perspective in terms of the evidence and the data we have to date.”

He added: “Personally, for myself, I'm not planning to travel anywhere anytime soon. If I were to travel anywhere I would stick to Canada for the time being.”

## From the Archives: Killed by lightning



**July 18, 1969:** The Moncton Transcript reports that one man was killed when he was struck by lightning and some golfers at a Moncton course were injured as a storm swept across southeastern New Brunswick. The wind and rain caused widespread damage. Meanwhile, NASA's Apollo 11 space craft is getting closer to its historic landing on the moon. / Find this and so much more in our digital archives, available to all subscribers online at [da.tj.news](http://da.tj.news).

# Spinning into poverty

POVERTY →A1

“quintile” or category reports spending \$276 on gambling annually, while those in the lowest-income quintile say they spend \$139, according to the study, citing data from Statistics Canada.

As a proportion of income, that means the poorest spend more than twice as much (0.76 per cent) on gambling than the richest (0.32 per cent), it says.

But the actual figures might be considerably higher, because people tend to low-ball how much they spend on gambling, said Dijkema, vice-president of external affairs for Cardus.

The report estimates it's more like four per cent of annual income for the poorest households, twice the proportion paid out by the wealthiest.

The Christian faith-based research group is calling for the provinces to use gaming revenues to fight poverty and to reduce the number of video lottery terminals, which Dijkema said are well-known to be addictive and generate the most profits.

He said now is a good opportunity because COVID-19 has shuttered casinos, meaning the cost of change will perhaps never be lower.

“There's a chance for the government to restructure things in such a way that it turns gambling into something that helps the poor rather than preys on them, as it does right now,” he said.

Dijkema also said that alternative gambling models exist in places like England and France, with gamblers' money going into a kind of savings account. The interest is pooled and becomes the prize, he said.

Chris Keevill, president and CEO of the ALC, was unavailable for interview but the company provided an email statement attributed to him.

“Atlantic Lottery acknowledges that helping to look after the most vulnerable in our communities is an essential part of a responsible lottery program,” he said.

Keevill said the ALC boasts the highest level of certification for responsible gambling and provides players with “information and tools they need to make informed decisions to help keep their play fun,” including a free crisis hotline.

The company's web portal also includes features such as “deposit and spend limits that can be customized by the player,” he said.

He also noted that “Atlantic Lottery's profit stays here to help fund services essential to all Atlantic Canadians, like health care, education



A file photo shows a player at a VLT. A new study says people on the margins of society pay disproportionately into government coffers through gambling. PHOTO: GREG PENDER/POSTMEDIA

and infrastructure.”

Charlie Burrell, founder of the Humanity Project, which provides food and support to homeless people, said the people he works with don't have money for VLTs but some buy scratch tickets. He said some might have become poor through gambling.

He said it's a good idea to use gambling proceeds to fight poverty, along with revenues from cannabis, cigarettes and liquor. “We need change,” he said.

A government spokesperson said the province, casino operators and the ALC have initiatives focused on “prevention, awareness and treatment” to deal with issues related to gambling.

“Legislations and regulations are not always the best tools to help and to protect individuals,” said Vicky Deschênes, a spokesperson for the Department of Finance and Treasury Board.

“In the case of gambling and gaming, the best tools still remain public information, education and solid prevention programs.”

The department previously said the pandemic is having a significant impact on gaming operations and government revenue.

The provincial budget for 2020-21, tabled nine days before a state of emergency was declared in March, estimated that revenue from the New Brunswick Lotteries and Gaming Corporation would reach \$166.2 million, up from \$161.4 million in 2019-20.

The ALC, jointly owned by the four Atlantic provinces, generated \$36.6 million in revenues from ticket lottery and \$92.1 million from VLTs for New Brunswick, according to the NBLGC's 2017-18 annual report, the most recent one available.

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Delivery begins on Wednesday and continues through to Thursday.

Circulation audited by Canadian Media Circulation Audit

Member of

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37 Front Street East, Suite 200

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