



Accountability Report

2018–2019

Intergovernmental Affairs



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Accountability Report 2018–2019

ISBN 978-1-55457-983-9

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Accountability Statement

The Accountability Report of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA), for the year 2018-2019 ended March 31, 2019, is prepared pursuant to the *Finance Act* and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs' Business Plan for the fiscal year just ended.

The reporting of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs outcomes includes estimates, judgements and opinions by the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs management. We acknowledge that this Accountability Report is the responsibility of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs management. The report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs 2018-2019 Business Plan.

Original signed by _____

Honourable Stephen McNeil
Premier, Province of Nova Scotia
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Minister Responsible for Military Relations

Original signed by _____

Kelliann Dean
Deputy Minister, Department of Intergovernmental Affairs

Message from the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

It is my pleasure to present the 2018-19 Accountability Report for the Nova Scotia Department of Intergovernmental Affairs. The Province of Nova Scotia is committed to growing our economy and population, and improving the social well-being and health of our citizens. These objectives are broadly achieved through enhanced legislation and policy, strengthened government relations, and trade and investment.

The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) is responsible for managing the Province's strategic interests nationally and internationally, and the advancement of intergovernmental and trade priorities. During 2018-19, IGA continued to play a leading role, working with other departments, agencies and stakeholders, helping to advance government's priorities. Central coordination and a structured approach, including policy analysis and advice, ensured that outcomes were achieved, economic and policy benefits were maximized, and Nova Scotia's position on key issues were presented in a consistent and effective manner.

The department was successful in realizing its objectives through a wide variety of operational activities. Highlights for 2018-19 included:

- advocacy with the United States on key Nova Scotia trade and cross-border issues;
- a renewed trade agreement with the United States and Mexico, ensuring continued access to the United States market for the province's important commercial sectors (ratification of the agreement is pending);
- strengthened partnerships between Nova Scotia and China, punctuated by a 30 per cent annual increase in exports from Nova Scotia into the Chinese market in 2018, and the formalization of a twinning agreement with Guangdong Province (China's number one economic growth province);
- the release of the Nova Scotia-Europe Engagement Strategy, which emphasizes the Province's plans to leverage the benefits of the Canada-European Comprehensive and Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) and to focus trade efforts throughout Europe;
- co-leadership on the Internal Trade file of the Council of the Federation, which resulted in reduced trade barriers and a reduction in regulatory burden to businesses;
- visits by international dignitaries and official delegations and most notably, an official visit to Nova Scotia by Her Excellency the Governor General of Canada;
- recognition of the outstanding accomplishments and talents of exceptional Nova Scotians and their contributions to our province at the annual Order of Nova Scotia ceremony; and
- advancement of Nova Scotia's innovation agenda through the Province's participation in initiatives under the Atlantic Growth Strategy, including Canada's Ocean Supercluster.

As the Minister Responsible for Military Relations, I was honoured to engage with the leadership of the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces on issues of importance for military personnel and veterans.

His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor, represented the Queen of Canada in Nova Scotia at events across the province, and welcomed 14,000 visitors during ceremonies and receptions at Government House. Unique among these events was a meeting of the Mi'kmaq Grand Council, hosted for the first time at Government House by the Lieutenant-Governor and the Grand Keptin.

I wish to thank IGA staff for their dedication, hard work and continued commitment to excellence.

Original signed by _____

Honourable Stephen McNeil
Premier, Province of Nova Scotia
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Minister Responsible for Military Relations

Mandate

The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) is the central coordinating agency responsible for managing the Province's relations with other governments, and for promoting understanding of Nova Scotia's opportunities in the broader national and international context. Its primary role is to ensure that the Province's approach with other governments is consistent, and to ensure a corporate perspective in all departmental dealings in regional, national and international settings. The Department receives its mandate from sections 46D and 46E of the *Public Service Act*. The Act states that - under the direction of its Minister - the department is responsible for coordinating and advancing the Province's interests with the Government of Canada, other provinces, and foreign governments at the national and subnational levels. The Department also has responsibility for trade policy, interprovincial and international trade negotiations, agreements and disputes and the development of the Province's strategic approach to international markets for administrative purposes, pursuant to Sections 4 and 7 of the *Public Service Act*, effective June 15, 2017. It is also the central point of contact for the coordination of the Province's intergovernmental priorities and protocol requirements, Military Relations, and the operation of Government House.

Core Business Functions/Areas:

Government of Canada Relations
Federal-Provincial-Territorial Relations
Regional Relations
International Relations
Canada-United States Relations
Trade Policy
Protocol Office
Military Relations
Government House

Accountability Report – Financial Table and Variance Explanation

	2018-2019 Estimate	2018-2019 Actuals	2018-2019 Variance
Program & Service Area	(\$thousands)		
Departmental Expenses:			
Administration	\$2,674	\$2,653	(\$21)
Government House	\$886	\$972	\$86
Protocol Office	\$500	\$389	(\$111)
Total: Departmental Expenses	\$4,060	\$4,014	(\$46)
Additional Information:			
Ordinary Revenue	0	0	0
Fees and Other Charges	0	0	0
Ordinary Recoveries	\$30	\$11	(\$19)
Total: Revenue, Fees and Recoveries	\$30	\$11	(\$19)
TCA Purchase Requirements	0	0	0
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	35	30.8	(4.2)
<u>Departmental Expenses Variance Explanation:</u>			
<u>Revenue, Fees and Recoveries Variance Explanation:</u>			
<u>TCA Purchase Requirement Variance Explanation:</u>			
N/A			
<u>Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs) Variance Explanation:</u>			

Measuring Our Performance

The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) provides corporate oversight, cross-departmental co-ordination and strategic leadership in advancing the Province's intergovernmental objectives, relationships and opportunities. Through facilitation of a whole-of-government approach, IGA helps to create the conditions to support strong economic and social outcomes in Nova Scotia, with an emphasis on intergovernmental and international relationships, increased trade and market diversification, and strategic stakeholder engagement. Our 2018 client satisfaction survey of 83 key government clients achieved a 72% response rate and indicated that 87% per cent of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with IGA's performance. IGA plans to conduct the next survey in 2020.

The 2018-19 Accountability Report outlines actions and outcomes in four priority categories, reflecting IGA's mandate and core function areas. The four inter-related categories encompass department-wide activities, and correlate with objectives and outcomes from the 2018-19 IGA Business Plan.

Performance indicators/measurements in this report include quantitative progress on Government priorities achieved through broad collaboration. Some examples during 2018-19 include provincial population growth, increases in immigration, international visitors and student retention, higher levels of exports to key markets, increased trade opportunities and overall export market diversification.

Priority 1: Co-ordination, collaboration and alignment within government

Actions:

- Led the co-ordination, within the Nova Scotia government, in response to increased Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) meetings and consultations by the Government of Canada. IGA facilitated collaboration and co-ordination among provincial departments and agencies, and developed alignment of efforts to advance Nova Scotia federal-provincial priorities and opportunities.
- Led the development of provincial priorities and participation in national and regional intergovernmental forums, including the Council of the Federation (COF), First Ministers' meetings, The Council of Atlantic Premiers, the Ministerial Committee on Internal Trade and the Atlantic Growth Strategy.
- Launched the Senior Officials Intergovernmental Committee and the IGA Liaison Program, formalizing liaison relationships between IGA and other departments.
- Enhanced co-ordination on several files with impacts for a number of departments, including Marine Protected Areas, Regional Clean Energy, development of Veterans Advocate Office.
- Supported the Province's participation in the Atlantic Growth Strategy Leadership Committee by identifying opportunities for regional co-operation, coordinating advice from departments, working with other governments, and providing strategic analysis.
- The State of Trade Project was initiated. This corporate project will establish a leading model for use by government of international and interprovincial trade and market information, to inform decision making and enhance client services across government.
- The Strategic Market Working Group, co-chaired by IGA and Nova Scotia Business Inc. (NSBI), continued to support collaboration between departmental and agency in-market efforts to advance private sector growth objectives, including increasing trade markets and exports.

- The Trade Implementation Committee, also co-chaired by IGA and NSBI, continued to provide a mechanism for discussing trade compliance issues in areas such as procurement, and enabled interdepartmental information sharing related to trade negotiations and disputes.
- Central strategic planning, agenda development and operational support was provided for international trade missions.

Outcomes:

- Nova Scotia's relations with the Government of Canada and provincial and territorial governments, and participation in intergovernmental forums and initiatives, were consistent and aligned in support the Province's interests and strategic priorities.
- International engagement and advocacy with government dignitaries, officials, stakeholders and trade delegations reflected pro-active internal collaboration.
- Nova Scotia priorities and interests were well presented and understood in domestic, regional, national and global intergovernmental and key stakeholder relationships.
- Departments understood the IGA role and support/services available to them, including assistance with corporate alignment and co-ordination of activities.
- Strategic engagement/stakeholder outreach occurred on major files and issues.
- Trade mission agendas, activities and outcomes aligned with government strategic direction and key sector business development and market opportunities.

Performance indicators/measurement:

- Nova Scotia's interests were successfully advanced on key files, including Marine Protected Areas, Clean Energy, immigration, and advancing development of the Veterans Advocate Office.
- Departments and agencies shared information and context on issues that assisted in the planning and execution of actions, in alignment with government strategic direction.
- Through IGA liaisons, departments received access to IGA services and support on key files.
- Department officials were connected, through IGA committee activities, with colleagues who lead major and/or inter-related files in other departments and agencies.
- Government strategic direction was broadly reflected in actions/activities undertaken by departments and agencies.

Priority 2: Advancing Nova Scotia's Intergovernmental Interests

A. Nova Scotia-Canada/Atlantic Region

Actions:

- Supported Nova Scotia's participation in the Council of the Federation (COF) forum and meetings, where the Province's positions on major issues, including Canada-U.S. trade, immigration, environmental assessments, and cannabis legalization were advanced nationally.
- Nova Scotia's Premier was invited by COF to co-lead, with the Premier of Manitoba, the COF file on Internal Trade.
- Supported the Province's participation in the First Ministers' Meeting and the Meeting of First Ministers' and National Indigenous Leaders in December 2018.
- Continued to support the Atlantic Growth Strategy, a key federal-provincial initiative to stimulate the economy across the Atlantic region in five key areas: skilled workforce/immigration; innovation; clean growth and climate change; infrastructure; trade and investment. Projects included the Atlantic Immigration Pilot, Canada's Ocean Supercluster,

development of a Clean Power Roadmap, and investment to increase access to digital health care.

- Supported Nova Scotia's participation in the Council of Atlantic Premiers (CAP), including a meeting in January 2019 that resulted in an agreement on measures to further reduce red tape, and to collaborate to expand electrification and the development of more sustainable, reliable and affordable electricity in the region. Key issues during the year also included health collaboration, joint procurement and Atlantic workforce development.
- The Minister of Trade assumed a one-year term as chair of the FPT Committee on Internal Trade (CIT), and Nova Scotia's Chief Regulatory Officer began a one-year term chairing the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table (RCT). IGA supported the Province's participation in these FPT committees, to advance the work under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.

Outcomes:

- Nova Scotia was engaged and collaborated on priority issues within the Federation and the Atlantic Region; regional collaboration was advanced under initiatives of the Atlantic Growth Strategy. This included the joint commitment to develop a Clean Power Roadmap for Atlantic Canada.
- A significant reduction in barriers was realized during the period when Nova Scotia chaired the Committee on Internal Trade (CIT) and the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table (RCT) among the Provinces and Territories.
- Nova Scotia pursued inter-provincial collaboration and began leveraging opportunities for N.S. businesses and organizations under Canada's Ocean Supercluster initiative.
- Nova Scotia's FPT priorities were advanced through the Council of the Federation (COF).
- Canada's premiers engaged with national Indigenous Leaders on strategic policy matters.
- Frequent engagement occurred with federal officials on myriad issues, including as part of FPT tables and consultations.
- Nova Scotia's interests were considered in federal policy development and regional initiatives, including on issues such as Marine Protected Areas, skilled workforce/ immigration, innovation, clean growth and climate change; infrastructure; trade and investment.

Performance indicators/measurements:

- Nova Scotia's interests were supported as a result of partnership investment and opportunities for N.S. businesses/organizations available via Canada's Ocean Supercluster.
- Policies and program investment under the Atlantic Growth Strategy provided benefits to N.S.
- More than 5,600 immigrants to Nova Scotia were granted permanent residency status in 2018, establishing a record and leading to provincial population growth of 11,150 people (1.17%) in 2018-19, compared to 2017-18.

B. Nova Scotia-United States:

Actions:

- Monitored U.S. internal and geopolitical developments in relation to evolving U.S. trade policy; assessed market access proposals that created impacts for Nova Scotia businesses and sectors, particularly in relation to the re-negotiation of NAFTA.
- Led the Province's participation in the Government of Canada's FPT approach on the renegotiation of NAFTA; engaged with federal negotiators regarding N.S. interests and objectives.

- Led outreach and engagement with sector organizations and key stakeholders across the province as negotiation of the Canada-US-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA/USMCA) continued.
- Monitored and reported on the ratification processes for the subsequent Canada-US-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA/USMCA), which was signed on Nov. 30, 2018.
- Advocacy efforts undertaken with U.S. federal and sub-national officials to promote the benefits of maintaining a progressive trade relationship between the U.S. and Canada.
- The importance of Nova Scotia's cross-border relationships with the U.S. was reinforced through participation in cross-border intergovernmental forums, including the Conference of New England Governors-Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG-ECP), the Southeastern United States-Canadian Provinces Alliance (SEUS/CP); the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment.
- Nova Scotia advocacy mission was undertaken with senior U.S. government officials regarding the importance of Canada's trade relationship with the U.S., and Nova Scotia interests in relation to U.S. consideration of import tariffs on automobiles and parts.

Outcomes:

- Advocacy efforts to advance Nova Scotia's cross-border priorities were focused through IGA.
- Nova Scotia's cross-border policy interests and priorities were shared with provincial departments/agencies; advanced with federal officials and adequately addressed.
- Under CUSMA, Nova Scotia will maintain NAFTA-level access to the U.S. market.
- The impacts of trade actions on Nova Scotia businesses and sectors were well understood; advocacy with federal officials was undertaken to communicate impacts and N.S. interests.

Performance indicators/measurement:

- Under CUSMA/USMCA, Nova Scotia will maintain a level of access to the U.S. that is identical, or similar, to the level under NAFTA.
- Nova Scotia exports to the U.S. increased by four per cent in value during 2018, to \$3.61 billion, despite trade friction and the imposition of tariffs on cross-border steel and aluminum imports.
- N.S. advocacy assisted in building support for the removal of U.S. tariffs on imports of Canadian steel and aluminum, which occurred in May 2019.

C. Nova Scotia-International

Actions:

- Europe was a key focus area in 2018-19, with the Nova Scotia-Europe Engagement Strategy developed for release in April 2019. The strategy provides a framework for increasing Nova Scotia's economic and cultural ties with Europe, and was developed in consultation with departments/agencies, business leaders and the Honorary Consular Corps.
- Worked with Tourism Nova Scotia and the Halifax Stanfield International Airport to advance discussions on direct air service between Nova Scotia and China. Met with officials in China regarding charter flight opportunities and the promotion of Atlantic Canada as a destination for Chinese tourists.
- Monitored and reported on geopolitical developments in strategic markets to assess market access considerations for exporters, including negotiations with respect to the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union, and Canada-China trade issues.
- China remained a strong focus for IGA, with continued actions to implement the Nova Scotia-China Engagement Strategy and to deepen intergovernmental relationships. In November 2018, during the Nova Scotia-led trade mission, the Province signed a Twinning Agreement with

Guangdong Province. Nova Scotia is one of only three provinces in Canada to achieve an agreement with Guangdong, along with British Columbia and Alberta.

- The strategic interests of the Province were supported through continued efforts to encourage global trade and investment opportunities, including through enhanced engagement with the Honorary Consular Corps to leverage market knowledge and connections.
- IGA monitored developments and engaged with federal and international officials regarding additional potential bilateral free trade agreements, including the Pacific Alliance (Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru), MERCOSUR (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) and ASEAN (Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Myanmar (Burma), Cambodia, Laos, Brunei, and India).
- Trade mission to Asia included a visit to Japan, with a strategic focus on increasing awareness of business connections and opportunities with key officials in this important Asian market. Japan is a signatory of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement.

Outcomes:

- A whole-of-government approach advanced Nova Scotia's global interests and priorities.
- International relationships and diplomatic ties with key government and business decision makers/influencers were pursued, to seek benefits for Nova Scotia exporters through the leveraging opportunities, addressing challenges and removing barriers.
- Nova Scotia's international export markets are increasingly diversified; access to global markets has been enhanced/maintained for N.S. exporters.
- Canada's Ocean Supercluster is providing enhanced R&D support and is leveraging private sector growth opportunities for N.S. businesses.
- The vital N.S.-China trade relationship has been enhanced; intergovernmental relationships remain strong.
- Export trade to key markets increased, including to China and Europe. Exporters of certain seafood, agri-food and energy products developed new first-time destinations in Eastern Europe during 2018.

Performance indicators/measurement:

- Nova Scotia's international exports grew to \$5.725 billion in 2018, an increase of seven per cent over 2017.
- Nova Scotia exports to Europe rose to \$598 million in 2018, an increase of 20 per cent over 2017.
- Nova Scotia exports to China leaped by approximately 30 per cent in 2018 to \$793 million, compared to the 2017 level.
- New direct air service to Europe was launched and/or announced, including Westjet flights to Paris, Gatwick and Dublin.
- Nova Scotia trade diversification increased in 2018, as the percentage of international exports destined for locations other than the United States grew to almost 37 per cent, compared to 35 per cent in 2017.

Priority 3: Strategic Approach to Trade

Actions:

- IGA trade negotiators provided strong input to advance Nova Scotia government and business sector interests with federal officials under Canada's FPT approach to Canada-U.S.-Mexico trade agreement negotiations.
- IGA led the national process to advance key initiatives under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), including on alcoholic beverages, party-specific exceptions, cannabis and financial services.
- Supported corporate efforts to promote sector and business awareness of opportunities provided by the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), which celebrated its first anniversary in September 2018, and the 11-country Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), which came into force in December 2018.
- Advanced Nova Scotia's interests on World Trade Organization matters of interest to the province, including on fisheries and agriculture.
- Worked with the Department of Lands and Forestry to maintain the Nova Scotia exclusion from U.S. softwood lumber duties.
- Advanced arguments as part of NAFTA Chapter 19 and WTO hearings on Super Calendered Paper, which resulted in a reduction of Port Hawkesbury Paper's duty rate. (Note – a commercial arrangement has been struck which resulted in the duties being dropped entirely.)
- Supported Canada's defense in NAFTA Chapter 11 matters, including Resolute V. GOC, Bilcon v. GOC.
- Supported Canada's defense in the WTO Dispute Settlement matter *Canada-Measures Governing the Sale of Wine*; led industry liaison in relation to this case.
- A multi-sector stakeholder database was developed and utilized to facilitate outreach, engagement and the circulation of information to businesses and organizations on trade issues and negotiations.
- Undertook and provided detailed strategic analysis of trade data and sector opportunities and impacts in relation to trade negotiations, issues and disputes, particularly in U.S., European and Asian markets.
- Engaged with federal officials and participated in FPT-industry committees in relation to Nova Scotia interests resulting from U.S.-Canada trade actions on steel and aluminum.
- Led outreach to impacted N.S. stakeholders to facilitate access to technical information and programs to mitigate impacts of trade actions on steel and aluminum.
- Led the Province's participation in the CITT inquiry on global steel imports in support of key stakeholder impacts.
- MOU between IGA and the Federation of Nova Scotia Municipalities was advanced. The objective is the co-ordination of efforts in international business development, export opportunities and market diversification, and enhancing awareness of international trade obligations.

Outcomes:

- Nova Scotia strongly engaged with Government of Canada officials involved in the negotiation of international trade agreements, resulting in awareness among federal negotiators of Nova Scotia's interests and concerns in relation to trade agreements/issues.

- Red tape reductions have been achieved in Nova Scotia; the Province is recognized as a national leader in introducing service efficiencies and reducing regulatory costs for businesses.
- Trade compliance risks were proactively mitigated. Nova Scotia's interests were advanced through the World Trade Organization (WTO) Dispute Settlement Body, NAFTA Tribunals and other dispute resolution mechanisms, in most cases with minimal economic and social impacts.
- Access to existing markets has been protected and/or enhanced for most sectors as a result of trade agreements and dispute resolution outcomes.
- Nova Scotia exporters and businesses are increasingly aware of market access benefits provided under CETA and CPTPP; markets for exports from Nova Scotia have become more diversified.

Performance indicators/measurement:

- Nova Scotia trade diversification increased in 2018, as the percentage of international exports destined for locations other than the United States grew to almost 37 per cent, compared to 35 per cent in 2017.
- CUSMA/USMCA, as proposed, provides similar access to U.S. markets for N.S. exporters as the level provided under NAFTA.
- The Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness led the Nova Scotia government to achieve \$34 million in annual savings for businesses by the end of 2018, exceeding its target of \$25 million in savings.
- Nova Scotia's exclusion from U.S. duties on softwood lumber was maintained, following strong support provided through advocacy efforts by IGA and the Department of Lands and Forestry during 2018-19.
- Nova Scotia's advocacy position advanced during the CITT inquiry on steel imports was reflected in the recommendations of the CITT report released on April 2, 2019, which led to the removal of safeguards on steel imports of importance to Nova Scotia.
- A number of manufacturing businesses in Nova Scotia that had been impacted by trade action on steel/aluminum imports successfully accessed federal tariff refund programs after direct advocacy with federal officials was undertaken by IGA.

Priority 4: Raising Nova Scotia's profile

Actions:

- Nova Scotia's vibrant and diverse culture was promoted, celebrated, and leveraged as an economic opportunity through inclusion in agenda and event planning for international trade missions and incoming visits.
- A dynamic, aligned approach was utilized to advance trade and business development opportunities, and to promote Nova Scotia as a prime destination for tourists, immigrants and international students.
- IGA worked closely with the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage (CCH) to promote closer cultural ties with China. CCH and IGA worked with Global Affairs Canada in Guangzhou to plan the first exhibit of Nova Scotia art in Guangdong Province, including works by Maud Lewis, which occurred in Spring of 2019.
- Worked collaboratively to promote educational opportunities and partnerships/research agreements for institutions and international students as part of trade mission activities.
- Nova Scotia's unique immigration programs and work opportunities were promoted, in partnership with federal programs, in intergovernmental and international forums.

- IGA provided support and collaborated with the Nova Scotia Tourism Agency and Halifax Stanfield International Airport to promote Nova Scotia as a travel destination in specific markets of interest, including new direct flights to European destinations.
- Coordinated the visit to Nova Scotia of Her Excellency the Governor General of Canada, including participation in the 100th Anniversary of 12 Wing Shearwater events.
- Protocol advice and support was provided to departments, the public and consular community.
- The Protocol Office welcomed and provided support services for Commonwealth and foreign government dignitaries, officials and trade delegations on incoming visits to Nova Scotia. Suggested agenda activities provided strategic alignment with Nova Scotia interests in international markets, including the growth of export opportunities to China and European destinations.
- Military Relations remained a high priority, with the Premier, as Minister Responsible for Military Relations, working with leadership of the Department of National Defence, the Canadian Armed Forces and the Department of Veterans Affairs in Nova Scotia on issues of mutual importance.
- Military Relations activities included discussions on opportunities for collaboration; participation in military and veteran-related events and ceremonies honoring service to Canada; support of organizations and groups that honour and assist veterans and military members in Nova Scotia.
- Implementation plan for the Veterans Advocacy role was advanced.
- Excellence among Nova Scotians was celebrated through Order of Nova Scotia awards.
- The works of talented artisans in Nova Scotia were profiled and promoted at home and in international markets through the Artisans Gift Bank Services provided to government clients.
- Nova Scotians marking celebratory milestones received more than 1,500 commemorative and congratulatory certificates through the services of the Protocol Office.

Outcomes:

- The unique talents of Nova Scotian artists and artisans were presented and promoted in global markets.
- Nova Scotia experienced growth in international tourists, immigrants and the number of international students enrolled in post-secondary programs in the province.
- The talents, skills and dedication of outstanding citizens were recognized through the Order of Nova Scotia program.
- A shared understanding of importance of military and veterans-related priorities was achieved through active engagement with military and veterans communities, participation in commemorative events, and the recognition of the military as a strategic asset and important part of the Nova Scotia's economic and social fabric.
- Official visits of foreign dignitaries and delegations were coordinated with key departmental and external stakeholders; opportunities were pursued to profile and advance the interests and objectives of the Province.

Performance indicators/measurements:

- Visitation from overseas markets increased 15 per cent, or 13,900 visitors, in 2018, reflecting the fifth straight year of growth for that category of visitors. Direct flights to and from Europe are credited as a strong contributor to that outcome.
- More than 1,500 Nova Scotians were congratulated through the dispatch of commemorative and congratulatory certificates.

- There were approximately 9,000 international students in Nova Scotia. The number of students who remain in Nova Scotia after graduation has increased from 5 per cent in 2014 to 9.4 per cent. That level is close to achieving the Ivany Report goal of retaining 10 percent of international students annually.
- A record number of nominations were submitted for consideration for the Order of Nova Scotia.
- International diplomats, officials and trade delegations were welcomed with appropriate protocol procedures and connected with program elements that align with N.S. priorities and interests

Government House

Government House, as the division which supports the Lieutenant Governor, is listed as a separate section of this report given the unique role played by the Lieutenant Governor and his office in our system of government, discharging both constitutional and ceremonial duties. The office continues to support the constitutional and symbolic role of the Lieutenant Governor as The Queen's representative in Nova Scotia and strives to maintain and enrich the traditions and heritage of Government House as the centre of official hospitality for the province and its people.

Actions:

- Government House/The Office of the Lieutenant-Governor continued to support the Lieutenant-Governor in fulfilling prescribed constitutional duties (Royal Assent, Orders-in-Council; swearing-in of members of the Executive Council).
- Carried out a comprehensive program, including regional visits throughout the province and attendance at 164 external events.
- More than 100 events, ceremonies and receptions were hosted at Government House, with nearly 14,000 people welcomed at events and public tours.
- Continued to promote the foundational Crown-Indigenous Relationship through the hosting of, and participation in, various events involving the Mi'kmaq.
- The Mi'kmaq Grand Council held its meetings for the first time at Government House, hosted by the Lieutenant-Governor and the Grand Keptin.
- Executed the Lieutenant Governor's program in relation to the Lieutenant Governor's eight awards and 85 patron organizations; presided over investitures for various national and provincial honours.
- Executed the programs associated with the Lieutenant Governor's role to celebrate and recognize deserving Nova Scotians.
- Executed the programs associated with the Lieutenant Governor's role to promote excellence in Nova Scotia including the arts, products, and other areas that benefit from the Patronage of the Lieutenant Governor.
- Dispatched 785 commemorative certificates.
- Cadre of 29 Aides-de-Camp rendered 1639 hours of volunteer service (equivalent of 2 FTEs)
- Participated in enhancing Nova Scotia's diplomatic presence and outreach with the diplomatic community through events involving visiting Commonwealth and foreign diplomatic representatives and military forces, including courtesy calls and visits to foreign warships.
- Co-hosted the Group of Seven (G7) Speaker's Conference Opening with the Speaker of the House of Commons.
- Coordinated the visit of Her Excellency the Governor General with the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General and the Protocol Office.

Outcomes:

- The constitutionally defined and legal function of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia was fulfilled.
- The mandate to support the symbolic role of the Lieutenant Governor as The Queen of England's representative in Nova Scotia was fully met.
- The communities and the people in Nova Scotia were supported through celebrations of their accomplishments, people and history.
- The important cultural and historical role and contributions of the Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia were recognized and enhanced.

Performance indicators/measurements:

- Government House meets its federal and provincial obligations and operated within its mandate and funding allocation.
- Community activities, events and functions were supported.

[Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act](#)

The Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act was proclaimed into law on December 20, 2011. The Act provides for government employees to be able to come forward if they reasonably believe that a wrongdoing has been committed or is about to be committed and they are acting in good faith. The Act also protects employees who do disclose from reprisals, by enabling them to lay a complaint of reprisal with the Labor Board. A Wrongdoing for the purposes of the Act is: a) a contravention of provincial or federal laws or regulations; b) a misuse or gross mismanagement of public funds or assets; c) an act or omission that creates an imminent risk of a substantial and specific danger to the life, health or safety of persons or the environment; or d) directing or counselling someone to commit a wrongdoing.

The following is a summary of disclosures received by the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs:

Information Required under Section 18 of the Act, Fiscal Year 2018-2019

The number of disclosures received: 0

The number of findings of wrongdoing: 0

Details of each wrongdoing: N/A

Recommendations and actions taken on each wrongdoing: N/A