

Accountability Report 2017–2018

Department of
Intergovernmental Affairs

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Accountability Report 2017–2018

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Accountability Statement

The Accountability Report of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs for the year 2017-2018 ended March 31, 2018 and 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 2017-2018 Business Plan.

Original signed by

Honourable Stephen McNeil, Premier, Province of Nova Scotia
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Original signed by

Kelliann Dean
Deputy Minister

Message from the Minister

It is my pleasure to present the 2017-2018 Accountability Report for the Nova Scotia Department of Intergovernmental Affairs.

The Department of Intergovernmental Affairs advances the province's interests with the Government of Canada, other provinces and territories, and foreign governments. It serves as a central point of coordination of the province's intergovernmental priorities and protocol requirements, supports Military Relations, as well as the operation of Government House.

Intergovernmental Affairs is responsible for trade policy, interprovincial and international trade negotiations, Canada-US relations, and the development of the province's strategic approach to international markets. Intergovernmental Affairs supports the Minister of Trade in this capacity.

During 2017-2018, Intergovernmental Affairs continued to align goals and priorities with the strategic priorities of the government of Nova Scotia. For example, Intergovernmental Affairs promoted key priorities under the Atlantic Growth Strategy, a federal-provincial initiative aimed at impacting regional growth in key areas, including immigration, tourism and exports. On a pan-Canadian basis, the Council of Federation met in July 2017 in Edmonton to collaborate and discuss key intergovernmental issues such as cannabis legalization, energy, trade, and labour market agreements. Nova Scotia's positions on a number of issues were advanced at these meetings.

In 2017-2018, Intergovernmental Affairs continued to advance Nova Scotia's commercial and economic interests in trade matters domestically and internationally. On July 1, 2017, the Canadian Free Trade Agreement came into force, which commits federal, provincial and territorial governments to a comprehensive set of rules that will help achieve a modern and competitive economic union for all Canadians.

The department was also extensively engaged in the renegotiation and modernization of the NAFTA with the Government of Canada and worked with stakeholders to ensure Nova Scotia's interests were represented in these discussions.

Intergovernmental Affairs also worked diligently to ensure Nova Scotia's interests were effectively managed in trade disputes, including Supercalendared paper and softwood lumber matters. In late 2017, the province secured an exclusion from US duties for Nova Scotia's softwood lumber producers, a critical outcome for maintaining our producers' US market access.

Nova Scotia was actively involved in Canada-US Advocacy on critical trade issues. The province participated in the Council of Federation mission to Washington, DC, the Annual Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers in Charlottetown, PE, and the 10th Annual Conference of Southeastern United States – Canadian Provinces Alliance

in Toronto. 2017 marked the 100th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion, and the Nova Scotia Christmas Tree lighting in Boston, highlighting the enduring relationship between our province and the people of Boston.

The department continued to implement the Nova Scotia - China Engagement Strategy, leading to formal partnerships with the Chinese Embassy and two Chinese provinces, Shandong and Guangdong, as well as a visit from the Chinese Ambassador to Nova Scotia. This engagement helped to solidify China as Nova Scotia's second largest international trading partner.

Throughout the year, we advocated for members of the Canadian Armed Forces, and honoured those who have, and continue to serve, Canada by representing Nova Scotians at events for the 100th Commemoration of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in France, the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele, and visiting the Juno Beach Canadian Memorial.

The Protocol Office promoted the interests of Nova Scotia by ensuring that all diplomatic visits were matched with the province's strategic interests. Government House was also very active in managing the functions of the Lieutenant Governor.

I am proud of the accomplishments during the past fiscal year and would like to thank staff of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs for their continued hard work and commitment to excellence.

Original signed by

Honourable Stephen McNeil, Premier, Province of Nova Scotia
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Financial Results

	2017-2018 Estimate	2017-2018 Actuals	2017- 2018 Variance
Intergovernmental Affairs	<i>(\$thousands)</i>		
Departmental Expenses:			
Administration	2,510	2,534	24
Government House	872	895	23
Protocol Office	503	387	(116)
Total: Departmental Expenses	3,885	3,816	(69)
Additional Information:			
Ordinary Revenue	0	0	0
Fees and Other Charges	0	0	0
Ordinary Recoveries	30	13	(17)
Total: Revenue, Fees and Recoveries	30	13	(17)
TCA Purchase Requirements	0	0	0
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	34.0	29.8	(4.2)
<p><u>Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs) Variance Explanation:</u> Temporary Vacancies</p>			

Measuring Our Performance

The following outcomes and accomplishments demonstrate Intergovernmental Affairs' progress in 2017-2018 as it relates to the Department's mandate, core functions and its 2017-2018 Business Plan.

For this accountability report, Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) conducted a client satisfaction survey in June 2018 of 83 key clients representing 29 departments and Provincial bodies that have had significant involvement with IGA over the year to help assess its performance. The survey had a response rate of 72%, giving IGA a high degree of confidence that the views expressed are representative of its key clients.

Overall, 87% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with Intergovernmental Affairs' performance, an improvement from 80% in the previous client survey conducted in 2015-16.

Federal-Provincial and Territorial Relations

This core function supports Nova Scotia government departments in their dealings with other governments in Canada, and in identifying opportunities and potential issues. Work is undertaken to ensure that the province is effective in enhancing intergovernmental collaboration for the benefit of Nova Scotians.

Outcome

The province is recognized as a leader and equal partner within the confederation; one that is effective in influencing federal policy decisions to support its priority interests to the benefit of Nova Scotians.

Goals

- a) To lead, coordinate and provide effective approaches for the development of Nova Scotia positions and strategies on federal policy;
- b) To provide effective engagement and advance constructive dialogue on Nova Scotia's federal-provincial priorities and interests; and,
- c) To influence Government of Canada policy and decision making.

Actions

Atlantic Growth Strategy

Continued to support the Atlantic Growth Strategy (AGS), a key federal-provincial initiative, that focuses on efforts and resources to stimulate the region's economy. Announced in July 2016, the AGS Leadership Committee is comprised of the four Atlantic Premiers, the five federal regional ministers and the minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

(ACOA). It covers five key areas: skilled workforce/ immigration; innovative; clean growth and climate change; infrastructure; and trade and investment.

Supported participation in two Atlantic Growth Strategy Leadership Committee meetings (July 2017 and February 2018) and other committee work resulting in initiatives such as:

- A \$24.5 million multi-year, joint investment aimed at positioning Atlantic Canada as a top tourism destination;
- Atlantic Canada's Oceans Supercluster;
- Expansion of Nova Scotia's Study and Stay program

First Ministers' Meetings

Engaged with the Prime Minister in the lead up to the October 3, 2017 First Ministers' Meeting and the Meeting of First Ministers' and National Indigenous Leaders, and supported the Premier's participation in these meetings, which dealt with cannabis legalization, the Canadian economy, and NAFTA.

Council of Atlantic Premiers (CAP)

Supported CAP, including a Premiers' meeting in Halifax in December 2017, which resulted in joint support for the ocean supercluster, agreement on measures to further red tape reduction, commitment to explore aligning minimum wage, and the extension of the Atlantic Workforce Partnership.

Council of the Federation (COF)

Supported participation in the COF forum and at a COF meeting in Edmonton, AB, in July 2017. Through this forum, Intergovernmental Affairs advanced Nova Scotia's positions nationally on several issues, including immigration, Labour Market Agreements, environmental assessments, trade, and cannabis legalization.

International Relations

This core function is for coordinates and leads the province's international relations. International Relations ensures a corporate approach to Nova Scotia's trade promotion, investment attraction and other interests. It also supports inbound and outbound activities, including trade missions and the visit to Nova Scotia of delegations from priority markets.

Outcomes

- a) A whole of government approach that advances Nova Scotia's global interests and priorities;
- b) International relationships and diplomatic ties with key government and business decision makers/influencers that benefit Nova Scotia by leveraging opportunities, addressing challenges and removing barriers to business; and,
- c) Trade and investment opportunities are supported and enhanced.

Goals

- a) To support the province's international interests through strategic analyses, policy advice and interdepartmental coordination;
- b) To advance Nova Scotia's government and economic interests with priority countries; and,
- c) To maximize Nova Scotia's interests through international business development opportunities, investment attraction, and trade opportunities.

Actions

Nova Scotia is enhancing its participation in government and business missions globally. These missions create business opportunities that improve conditions for long term economic growth and help add value to Nova Scotia businesses and institutions interested in global business opportunities.

Nova Scotia-China Engagement

The Premier led two missions to Asia in 2017-2018, which included China, Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan. As a result of these missions, the province developed and enhanced government and trade links with these regions in seafood/food products; education; energy; ocean technology; transportation linkages; science, technology and innovation; tourism and investment attraction sectors; and strategically positioned and showcased Nova Scotia businesses and institutions for commercial relationships and partnership opportunities. A key priority for the province was engagement with a Chinese airline on the establishment of a direct route from China to Halifax. China was Nova Scotia's second largest export market in 2017 with \$611 million in exports.

The Premier also held a working dialogue with Chinese Ambassador Lu Shaye in Halifax, November 2017.

Nova Scotia – European Union (EU) Engagement

The European Union represents a strategic market for Nova Scotia. The Premier led two trade and investment missions to the European Union in 2017-2018, which included Scotland, England, and France. Key areas of focus for Nova Scotia included seafood and agrifood, ocean technology, tourism, transportation logistics, and investment attraction. As a result of CETA implementation, Nova Scotia businesses have benefited from gaining access to the world's largest market. These missions help the Province of Nova Scotia develop stronger relationships with trading partners to advance export growth and promote Nova Scotia businesses. In 2017-2018 Nova Scotia exported \$429M to the European Union (including the United Kingdom). Nova Scotia continues to strengthen its relationship with the United Kingdom, and will continue to trade and explore opportunities with the United Kingdom post-Brexit in March 2019.

Nova Scotia also hosted two European delegations in 2017-2018, which included Ambassadors of Canada to Italy, Germany, and the European Union. These consisted of discussions on our strategic markets and CETA promotion. These are a result of the confidence in the strength of our relationships with these global partners and the opportunities to bolster Nova Scotia businesses through effective trade arrangements.

Canada-United States Relations

This core function addresses Nova Scotia's important relationship with the United States (US). The US represents the province's principal export market, where cultural and familial linkages run deep and the economies are integrated.

Outcomes

- a) Ensuring Nova Scotia's cross-border policy interests and priorities are understood and adequately addressed; and,
- b) Nova Scotia maintains / enhances trade and leverages opportunities presented by strategic partnerships, meetings, forums and events related to Canada-US relations.

Goals

- a) Engage with the wider Canada-US stakeholder community to ensure that Nova Scotia's key priorities / concerns are known and understood;
- b) Encourage open trade and a more secure and efficient border; and,
- c) Advocate on the value / importance of the Canada -US relationship.

Actions

There is no market more important economically or significant to Nova Scotia than the US – the province's number one trade partner. In 2017-2018 Nova Scotia's exports were more than \$3.6-billion. The province's global commercial, economic and social success is directly linked to maintaining strategic and profitable relations with the US. The province was very active in a number of Canada-US forums and outreach missions in 2017-2018 including participation in the:

- Southeastern United States / Canadian Provinces Alliance (SEUS / CP), Toronto, ON, June 4-6, 2017;
- the Council of the Federation (CoF) Advocacy Mission to Washington, D.C., June 6-8, 2017;
- the National Governors Association (NGA) summer meeting, Providence, RI, July 13-16, 2017;
- the Council of State Governments / Eastern Regional Conference, (CSG/ERC), Uncasville, CT, August 13-16, 2017;
- Annual Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP), Charlottetown, PE, August 27-29, 2017

- Advocacy Mission to Baltimore, MD and Washington, DC, November 1-3, 2017;
- Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion, Address to the New England-Canada Business Council and a meeting with Governor Charlie Baker, Boston, MA, November 29-30, 2017
- Seafood Expo North America, Boston, MA, March 11-13, 2018

Engagement with representatives of the respective federal governments

The Premier engaged with the Canadian Ambassador to the United States, David MacNaughton; the US Ambassador to Canada, Kelly Craft; and the US Chargé d’Affaires, Elizabeth Moore Aubin, to discuss Canada-US relations, and reinforce the long history of bilateral trade and international relations and the deep, integrated nature of the economic and energy ties between our countries.

Trade Policy

Intergovernmental Affairs, through the Minister of Trade, is responsible for all matters relating to trade policy, interprovincial and international trade negotiations, agreements and disputes and the development of the province’s strategic approach to international markets. Advancing this mandate requires extensive engagement across government to maximize opportunities resulting from trade agreements and to minimize risks to the province through trade agreement compliance.

Outcomes

- a) Nova Scotia’s interests are advanced and the government of Nova Scotia is a collaborator in the negotiation of domestic and international trade agreements;
- b) Trade risks and compliance issues are anticipated and mitigated; and
- c) Nova Scotia’s interests are effectively managed in trade disputes.

Goals

- a) Nova Scotians benefit from a competitive trading environment with goods and service providers achieving better market access abroad and risks from non-compliance minimized.

Actions

Advanced Nova Scotia’s commercial and economic interests in negotiating and implementing internal and international trade agreements. Specifically,

- Led a corporate governance process and worked with stakeholders to advance Nova Scotia’s interests in the renegotiation and modernization of the NAFTA.
- Participated in NAFTA negotiation rounds, teleconferences, and bilateral discussions with Canada to advance Nova Scotia’s interests.

- Worked with Labour and Advanced Education on internal & external stakeholder consultations to draft implementing legislation for the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA).
- Worked with the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness to identify opportunities for regulatory reconciliation to be advanced under the CFTA.
- Anticipated and mitigated risks and compliance issues across government by working directly with other government departments on trade risk assessments in several areas, including labour mobility, alcohol and subsidies.

Ensured Nova Scotia's interests were managed in disputes. Key outcomes and activities:

- Secured an exclusion from US duties for Nova Scotia's softwood lumber producers.
- Advanced arguments as part of NAFTA chapter 19 and WTO hearings on Super Calendered Paper which may result in a reduction of Port Hawkesbury Paper's duty rate. (Note – a commercial arrangement has been struck which could result in the duties being dropped entirely. The decision rests with the US Dept. of Commerce).
- Supported Canada's defense in Resolute V. GOC and Bilcon v. GOC.
- Supported Canada's participation in WTO consultations in Geneva related to wine.

Military Relations

The Premier, as Minister responsible for Military Relations, provides the government of Nova Scotia with a means to communicate and work directly with the headquarters, offices, and agencies of the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Forces in Nova Scotia. Departmental responsibility and accountability for the province's defence, military and veterans related activities are managed by Intergovernmental Affairs.

Outcomes

- a) Ensure a shared understanding of Nova Scotia's defence and veteran related priorities; and
- b) Nova Scotia is actively engaged with the defence and veteran communities in the province;

Goals

- a) Work at enhancing relationships with the most senior military leaders in Nova Scotia to identify initiatives and projects that the province and the military can collaborate on; and
- b) Acknowledge and recognize that the military represents a strategic asset for Nova Scotia and is an important part of the province's economic and social fabric.

Actions

Government participated in several military and veteran-related events, and ceremonies during 2017-2018 that commemorated those who served, and continue to serve, Canada. Events included wreath laying and 100th commemoration ceremonies throughout France and Belgium. Most notable was the unveiling of Canada Gate, a companion piece to The Last Steps Memorial Arch in Halifax. Collectively, these gates, designed by Windsor artist Nancy Keating and built by Al Simm of Falmouth, Hants Co., are known as Portals of Remembrance.

Events in Nova Scotia included wreath laying and, navy departure and arrival ceremonies, annual veterans' week activities, Remembrance Day services, and attendance at the Halifax International Security Forum. Additional highlights included attendance at the Service of Remembrance commemorating the Halifax Explosion and the Commemorative Ceremony in Remembrance of the 48th Anniversary of HMCS Kootenay's Disaster.

Throughout the year, meetings were held with senior leadership in the Canadian Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Canada in Nova Scotia to collaborate on topics of mutual interest and concern.

Government continued to support local community organizations and groups in Nova Scotia who play an important role in remembering the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for Canada with donations to Centennial Park, Vimy, France; DND Family Days 2017; Maritime Helicopter Squadron 75th Anniversary; Mainland South Heritage Society; Cobequid Veterans Memorial Park; and Maple Grove and Yarmouth High Schools Memorial Club.

Government honoured and recognized cadets for taking part in the Cadet program by land, sea and air by hosting Cadet Day, October 7, 2017. Cadets representing 86 units with 3,500 members from across the province participated in the special ceremony.

The Protocol Office

The Protocol Office coordinates official ceremonies, events and foreign-official visits through consultations with ministers, departmental stakeholders and the federal government. It also provides protocol related advice to departments, non-governmental organizations, and the general public; and manages / administers the province's public recognition programs, the Order of Nova Scotia and the Premier's Congratulatory Message Service.

Outcomes

- a) Nova Scotia's interests and priorities are communicated to other foreign governments; and
- b) Nova Scotia has a positive national and international profile.

Goals

- a) To promote the interests of the province to foreign governments; and
- b) To increase the profile of the province and its people.

Actions

- Promoted the interests of Nova Scotia during four diplomatic visits.
- Provided protocol advice to government departments, the public, and consular community.
- Coordinated the Order of Nova Scotia program. Its outreach efforts resulted in a record number of nominations for the 2017 year. Each year five Nova Scotians are selected and honored with the Order of Nova Scotia, and their accomplishments showcased through internet and media. In the past year, the program has been promoted through traditional and social media.
- Successfully planned official visits by dignitaries and diplomats, hosted representatives from other jurisdictions, and facilitated cross-cultural communication and trade. The Protocol Office also facilitated communication with the Honorary Consular Corp.
- In 2017, organized and executed the swearing-in of the Executive Council and the Installation Ceremony for the Lieutenant Governor. The Protocol Office continued to liaise with the Prince's Charities Canada, and also organized the Celebration of Life for former Deputy Prime Minister Allan MacEachen.
- Increased the Protocol Gift Bank visibility through sales of local arts and crafts. The Gift Bank conducted approximately 1000 transactions to agencies, departments and commissions. It continued to expand its list of artisans represented in the Gift Bank.

Government House

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor / Government House will continue to serve, support and maintain with excellence the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia and Government House. The Office of the Lieutenant Governor will ensure that its mandate – To support the constitutional and symbolic role of the Lieutenant Governor as The Queen of Canada's representative in Nova Scotia – is fully met.

Outcome

- a) The constitutionally defined and legal function of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia is fulfilled.

Goals

- a) To fulfill the constitutionally defined and legal function of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia; and
- b) To support communities and the people in Nova Scotia by celebrating their accomplishments, people and history.

Actions

- Oversaw the successful transition to a new Lieutenant Governor and vice-regal mandate with the departure of Brigadier General, the Honourable J.J. Grant and the installation of His Honour the Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc.
- Executed a Cabinet swearing in Ceremony and the Lieutenant Governor's Installation Ceremony.
- Played a central part in arranging and executing the Service of Remembrance for the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen.
- Made significant advances on providing increased communications products in French.
- Presided over a number of events related to Treaty Day and the Crown-Mi'kmaq relationship and also hosted an event on National Acadian Day.
- Carried out 253 in-house and external events on behalf of the Crown and all Nova Scotia as well as carried out the prescribed constitutional duties (Royal Assent, Speech from the Throne, signing of commissions and orders-in-council, swearing in members of the Executive Council and meeting with the Premier).
- Presented awards and honours throughout the province.
- Participated in public events inviting Nova Scotians to visit during Doors Open Halifax, Nocturne: Art at Night, the New Year's Day Levee, the Lieutenant Governor's Annual Garden Party, and the Summer Tour program. These events served to inform the public about the roles of the Lieutenant Governor and increase access to Government House. Nearly 14,000 visitors visited Government House through official events and public tour programming.

Annual Report under Section 18 of the 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 Intergovernmental Affairs:

Information Required under Section 18 of the Act	Fiscal Year 2017 - 2018
The number of disclosures received	0
The number of findings of wrongdoing	0
Details of each wrongdoing (insert separate row for each wrongdoing)	N/A
Recommendations and actions taken on each wrongdoing (insert separate row for each wrongdoing).	N/A